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Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference Issues Final Statement

JN0709095995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2040 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—The participants in the seventh World Popular Islamic Conference have called on the Arab and Islamic countries to release Iraq's frozen assets in their banks to enable Iraq to carry out its duty toward its own people and toward other Islamic causes and to proceed with its great faith campaign aimed at raising an enlightened generation which will be faithful to its religion and ethics. This will also help the Iraqis perform their religious rites, particularly pilgrimage of which they have been deprived. The participants in the conference reaffirmed that Islam and Muslims prohibit besieging other Muslims and consider this a sin and aggression.

The conferees announced — on behalf of their people — in a statement issued at the end of their conference tonight, their support for the people of Iraq with all their potentials. They also announced their rejection of the resolutions of cunning and rancor engineered by the United States to besiege the Iraqi people, supported in this by its agents from the so-called Arabs and Muslims.

The participants noted that Iraq represents, in its pioneer role, the base for challenge and steadfastness in a world of despotism, corruption, and arrogance. They asserted that the lofty Iraqi people and their leader, the faithful mujahid Saddam Husayn, support justice and its owners and defend the sanctities of Muslims through their heroic, militant stand in the great duel, the glorious Mother of Battles, against the Atlantic onslaught, while carrying with patience, on behalf of the nation, the banner of Allahu Akbar [God is great].

The conferees greeted the patient people of Iraq, who, for the sake of faith and their homeland's loftiness, rejected all types of injustice and oppression, and denounced all resolutions against this lofty people. They called on the international Security Council to lift the injustice imposed on Iraq and to cancel all blockade resolutions, which were imposed unjustly and aggressively on this genuine people. They also called on the Arabs and Muslims, as well as on the leaders of Islamic action, societies, organizations, and parties, to shoulder their responsibilities toward lifting the siege, through honest words and deeds, to end the suffering of the people of Iraq.

The conferees reaffirmed that Islamic and humanitarian societies and organizations are called on to pool their resources and efforts to break the siege which contradicts heavenly values and human principles, and to put pressure on the international organizations throughout the world to swiftly lift the siege on the people of Iraq.

In their statement, the conferees noted the decision made by the fifth Popular Islamic Conference, which was held in Baghdad in January 1992, to appeal to Iran to take into consideration what is imposed by Islamic brotherhood and neighborly relations with Iraq, which expressed, before the 30-state aggression, its full readiness to forget the past and end causes of differences and dispute.

The participants in the conference called on Iran to respond positively to this call by establishing good neighborly relations between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs. They also called on Iran to resolve the problem of thousands of Iraqi prisoners, release them, and return the civilian and military planes which have been placed in Iran as a trust.

The conferees reiterated their support for the holy Palestinian jihad, noting that there is no justice or peace under Zionist occupation, oppression, and injustice against the Palestinian people. They said that liberating holy Jerusalem from the yoke of Zionists is every Muslim's responsibility.

The participants in the conference called for supporting Lebanese resistance in the occupied southern Lebanon until it is liberated from the Zionists and their agents. They condemned the unjust siege imposed on Libya, reaffirming the concern of the world's Muslims for Sudanese territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Islamic Development Bank Approves New Funds

LD0609165595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
0833 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 6 Sep — The board of executive directors of the Islamic Development Bank concluded its 159th session last night under the chairmanship of the bank's acting president Dr. Fuad 'Abdallah al-'Umar. It has approved new funds of $206.602 million for a number of member states and Islamic communities in non-member states.

Dr. al-'Umar said the funds allocated for development projects amounted to over $94 million. They are divided as follows: Indonesia, $13.60 million; Bangladesh, $3 million; Libya, $14 million; Algeria, $11.17 million; Chad, $3.5 million, State of Palestine, $1.2 million; Mauritania, $2.43 million; and Jordan, $26.24 million. There are also technical aid packages in the form of grants and easy-term credits of $1.19 million to carry out some technical feasibility studies and make designs

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of new projects in Guinea, Senegal, Cameroon, Chad, and Mali.

Dr. al-'Umar talked about the bank's efforts to promote trade between Islamic countries. He said that funds allocated for foreign trade finances amounted to $110.5 million for eight countries. These are: Algeria, $8 million; Egypt, $1[illegible] million; Indonesia, $15 million; Islamic Republic [illegible]ran, $10 million; Morocco, $20 million; Pakistan, $17.5 million; Tunisia, $10 million; and Bangladesh, $10 million.

He said that the new funds included six non-refundable grants worth $682,000 for Islamic communities in India, Venezuela, United States, South Africa, and Suriname. This is within the Islamic Development Bank's care for these communities and its efforts to help them raise the level of their education and health services since they are an integral part of the Islamic nation.

Dr. al-'Umar said that the board discussed in this session some financial and administrative reports. It also reviewed the progress of the projects that the bank finances or co-finances in the member states. The board examined as well the draft agenda of the 20th annual meeting of the bank's board of governors. It is scheduled to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, late November at the level of ministers of economy, finance, and planning of the 48 member states.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 25 Aug

NC0309210295

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 25 aug edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Reports and Comments on POW Affair
2. Writers Criticize Beijing UN World Conference on Women
3 Egypt Uses Specter of Fundamentalism To Obtain U.S. Aid
4. Writer Says Mubarak Leading NDP Election Campaign

REPORTS AND COMMENTS ON POW AFFAIR

A 250-word report by Yusuf Sa'd on page 1 obliquely criticizes Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni for his attempt to "marginalize" the issue of Egyptian POWs reportedly killed by the Israeli Army during the 1956 and 1967 wars. Basyuni described the "massacre" of "over 1,000 Egyptian prisoners" as "isolated incidents" carried out by "a few Israeli soldiers," "ignoring the confessions of the generals of the Zionist enemy and the silence of butcher Rabin against charges that he himself participated in the massacre," the report says. Basyuni said "we do not want problems with Israel" when we are in the midst of an Arab-Israeli peace process. The report notes that when the "scandal" first broke, Ambassador Basyuni was "flamed by enthusiasm." He said "Egypt is weighing the options and alternatives to punish and try the killers." "But for unknown reasons," his "enthusiasm cooled off," and he subsequently made statements calling for "burying" the issue.

In the same report, a "Zionist" official is quoted as saying that it is not possible to prosecute anyone for a crime committed over 20 years ago. The official adds "Israel can offer condolences to Egypt, if necessary, and nothing more."

In a 570-word column on page 12 entitled "Punishment of the Lowly," Managing Editor Mahmud Bakri launches a scathing attack on Israeli leaders, calling them "apes," "pigs," and "dogs." He says they are a "race that has no principle or creed." He adds that "the Egyptian Government—if it has an iota of loyalty to our chaste prisoners—must immediately expel the pig who runs the embassy of the dirty enemy in the heart of Cairo," and "it must ask Interpol to arrest Rabin and his gang." He urges the Egyptians to take "revenge" on the Israelis and to "eradicate" them, "beginning with Rabin, Peres, and Shamir." (NC3008204495)

A 600-word report by Mujahid al-'Arusi on page 2 features interviews with families of Egyptian soldiers killed or missing in the wars with Israel. A father of a missing soldier says: "All the money of the world will not compensate me for my son. I hope that Egypt will not be lenient with these butchers and criminals. It must exact punishment. War is coming, God willing. The Arabs and Muslims will triumph, as the Koran says." Other interviewees call for the trial of the killers of Egyptian POW's as "war criminals" and for the payment of "reparations" to the families of the dead soldiers.

The report then lists 14 "massacres" committed by the Israeli forces against the Palestinian people from 1948 to 1990.

WRITERS CRITICIZE BEIJING UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

A 1,000-word report by Subhi Buhayri on page 3 supports the statement issued by the Islamic Research Center in al-Azhar on the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing. It says the statement has gladdened the Egyptians and has proved that al-Ahzar will always remain a fortress and a refuge for Islam. The report cites a

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number of Islamist writers and thinkers criticizing the conference. Dr. 'Abd-al-Rashid Saqr says the conference wants to "destroy values and ethics and bury noble human principles." He says the West "unabashedly encourages homosexuality and sexual intercourse between young men and women." He says the Beijing conference will unashamedly profess its "debauchery," especially as it is held in a "communist country which does not recognize religion." He calls on all Islamic countries to "boycott" the conference so that it will be "stillborn."

Islamist writer Hasan Duh says "they want to shape a new woman conforming with the whims of the West and the United States." He says the aim of this conference and similar conferences, like the Population and Development Conference held in Cairo last year, is to create slaves for the white man and to establish the "supremacy of the white race."

Dr. Ahmad Shalabi, professor of Islamic History at Cairo University, criticizes the travel of Muslim women to the conference unaccompanied by a "mahram," a minder who must be a husband, brother, or father.

Dr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, professor of Islamic Philosophy, says the main aim of the Beijing document is to spread "adultery and debauchery." He asks: "if Islam, Christianity, and Judaism have forbidden adultery, in whose name are they speaking?" He claims that homosexuality and incest are widespread in Western societies.

EGYPT USES SPECTER OF FUNDAMENTALISM TO OBTAIN U.S. AID

A 650-word report on page 6 cites a recent BBC report as saying that "Egypt continues to use the specter of funadamentalism as a useful tool to receive U.S. military and financial aid." The BBC report notes that the U.S. $3.3 billion annual aid has led to the strengthening of the Egyptian Armed Forces, which are the "backbone" of the regime. The BBC report also notes that the United States and other countries are giving aid to Egypt to prevent the "Islamists" from grabbing power. The BBC report says "President Mubarak is himself is vacillating between exaggerating and belittling the threat posed by Islamists." Finally, the BBC report notes that the economic reform policy has "widened the gap between the poor and the rich" in Egypt.

WRITER SAYS MUBARAK LEADING NDP ELECTION CAMPAIGN

'Adil Husayn, secretary general of the Labor Party, writes a 4,000-word article on page 5. As usual, 'Adil Husayn deals with a number of topics. He begins his article by saying that he lives in the Cairo suburb of Heliopolis. On Wednesday night [23 August], he was among those who were "disturbed" by the sound of gunfire apparently directed at a plane that was flying over a "sensitive political position." A military communique was then issued explaining what happened. Husayn says he himself believes the contents of the military communique but notes that "malicious rumors" have spread among the people, who cast doubt on the communique and believe that what happened was the "10th attempt to assassinate" President Mubarak and the second attempt after the Addis Ababa attack. Husayn says these rumors are an indication that the political situation is "fragile" and that the people live in a "state of anxiety," expecting something grave to happen at any time, except the "sleepy rulers."

'Adil Husayn then discusses President Mubarak's speech to university professors and students in Alexandria. He says this speech "was part of the election campaign of the National Democratic Party" [NDP] and was broadcast on all official media outlets. He then says: "Why do the opposition parties not have the right to answer this speech on television?" Husayn says "the election campaign for the ruling party" was evident in President Mubarak's speech when he said that he is confident about "Egypt's vanguard role in the region." Husayn says "in our counter-election campaign," we do not see "eye-to-eye" with the president.

'Adil Hysayn asks why President Mubarak is confident about Egypt's vanguard role? He says Mubarak is basing this confidence on Egypt's manpower, which numbers 60 million people. He asks Mubarak: "If manpower is so important (which is a correct judgment), why have you pledged to stop Egypt's population growth?" Husayn dares President Mubarak to name a single Arab or African country that still recognizes Egypt's vanguard.

'Adil Husayn asks what is Egypt's role in supporting Arab interests and Arab security? "Does the Egyptian government dare to invite a meeting of Arab leaders or is it afraid of the United States' and Israel's anger?" He further asks what is Egypt's ability to confront the U.S.-Israeli blockade imposed on three Arab countries that reject the instructions of the arrogant powers? Husayn sarcastically says "we have truly played a vanguard and leading role in pushing the Arab countries to bilateral talks with Israel." "But after our success in this malicious and treacherous role, the United States told us that its aid to us was a bribe to play this role. Now that this mission is finished, there is no need to pay a bribe to you." Husayn says the Egyptian government "has lost control over events" in the Middle East. He maintains that Israel is trying to "isolate Egypt and marginalize its role" at the upcoming Amman Economic Summit, just

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as it did at the 1994 Casablanca Summit, and that Egypt can do nothing about this.

Referring to reports on the killing of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 war, 'Adil Husayn cites President Mubarak as saying that "it was a crime committed by individuals and to which the ruling regime in Israel is not accountable." Mubarak is further quoted as saying that "we do not this issue causing a problem between us and them. All what we want is that they announce the result of the investigation if the matter needs an investigation!" He asks President Mubarak why he does not extend a "similar kind treatment" to Sudan.

'Adil Husayn says the national economy has been ruined in the past 15 years at the hands of the NDP government. High prices and unemployment are rampant—a direct result of all the economic policies which have stopped economic growth and doubled debts, corruption, and social injustice.

'Adil Husayn maintains that all the previous People's Assembly elections were rigged by the government. He warns that the government plans to rig the upcoming People's Assembly elections. Nevertheless, the Labor Party will contest the elections. He says that the upcoming elections are the "last chance for democratic reform." Addressing the government, he says "if God does not enable us to foil your rigging and evil, terrorism and unrest will increase."

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 29 Aug

NC0409193195

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 29 Aug edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Israeli Envoy Said Involved in Killing POW's
2. POW Killing Confession Seen as Sign of Israel's Disintegration
3. Envoy to Israel Said Defending Israeli Government
4. MB's Mashhur Demands Government Action on POW Issue
5. Opposition Insists on Free, Clean Election Guarantees
6. Writer Expects 'Rigging', Urges Caution in Parliamentary Elections
7. EHRO Demands Investigation into POW Issue
8. 'Disciplinary Campaigns' to Arrest Group Leader
9. Tuberculosis Said to Spread Among Political Prisoners
10. Israel's Paper to Economic Summit Outlined
11. Writer on America, Arabs, Islam
12. Muslim Scholars Caution Women Against Beijing Document
13. Writer Responds to Mubarak's 'Statements of the Month'

ISRAELI ENVOY SAID INVOLVED IN KILLING POW'S

A 500-word report by Mahmud Bakri, pages 1 and 9, says that Israeli Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan took part in the massacres of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars (nc3108112795).

POW KILLING CONFESSION SEEN AS SIGN OF ISRAEL'S DISINTEGRATION

A 2,000-word article by Dr. Mahjub 'Umar entitled "The Mitla Pass Crime and the Murderer's Confession," page 12, examines the reasons behind publicizing Arieh Biro's "confessions" about the massacre of Egyptian POW's "at this particular time," since the massacre "was not the only one in the history of the Israeli Army." He relates how "scores of similar massacres" were registered by Israeli researchers but were kept from the media.

'Umar believes that "a confession of that sort could not have reached the media if it were not for an actual transformation within the Israeli community."

Commenting on Biro's conduct during the war, 'Umar maintains that "this murderer was proceeding according to a comprehensive criminal scheme at the time; he was not in a state of self-defense as he claims."

Moving on to the reasons behind making the confession, 'Umar says: "We may assume that several self-imposed and public restrictions that prevented him from making his confession in the past have slackened." He adds that "the general psychological state that prevailed among the Israelis at that time (in 1956), particularly in the military establishments, has now changed." He further says that "what is happening in the state of Israel now is a sign of disintegration, decay, discord, and downfall" and that "all this reflects on the behavior of individuals, groups, and established structures." He, therefore, believes that "we should keep up the offensive to make internal discord more profound."

Dr. 'Umar believes that "the Israeli human community is experiencing a growing extremism to the right and left, which reflects rigorously on the unity of its major political organizations." He uses the suicide of the Israeli deputy defense minister to illustrate his view, stating that "the climate surrounding that major military official and politician made him so desperate and frustrated that he committed suicide."

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Dr. 'Umar concludes that the signs of discord indicate that "the racist, expansionist, Zionist, Israeli community, which some thought was supreme and invincible, is disintegrating and deteriorating."

ENVOY TO ISRAEL SAID DEFENDING ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

Al-Sayyid al-Ghadban's 800-word article on page 12 slams the Egyptian ambassador in Israel for statements he gave to the BBC on 23 August, in which he described "the hideous crimes the Israeli army gangs committed when they killed Egyptian POW's" as "individual incidents....that will not affect bilateral relations." The writer wonders how the ambassador of the Egyptian government gave himself the right "to jump ahead of investigations and absolve the Israeli government and army of any responsibility for these massacres, in which the blood of thousands of Egyptian, on whose behalf you are supposed to speak, was shed."

Al-Ghadban remarks that the Egyptian Government sufficed itself with "expressing its anger politely in diplomatic words and letters to the government of gangs, which includes a number of murderers who took part in these massacres, requesting details of these incidents."

Citing the incident involving Sulayman Khatir, "the soldier who opened fire at a trespassing Israeli group," he recalls the Israeli reaction. "Israel sent an investigating commission and demanded all the case files" and Khatir "lost his life in mysterious circumstances in jail."

Calling on the Egyptian Government to feel with the Egyptians, "whose blood is boiling with anger," he says that these "barbaric operations provide irrevocable evidence that Israel pursues the approach of "gangs."

He believes that "the least" the Egyptian Government should do is to withdraw the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv, freeze all normalization activities, notify international organizations of the crimes and demand reparations, and put the Israelis whose names were mentioned in the Israeli confessions on the black list and deny them entry into Egypt.

He wants the Egyptian ambassador to be "brought to account" and the Foreign Ministry to issue a statement to affirm that "his statements do not reflect the official Egyptian viewpoint."

He finally states that "the Egyptian people refuse to be represented by that ambassador" asking: "will the government keep him in defiance of the feelings of all Egyptians?"

MB'S MASHHUR DEMANDS GOVERNMENT ACTION ON POW ISSUE

Muslim Brotherhood [MB] Deputy General Guide Mustafa Mashhur writes a 1300-word article on page 5 entitled "What Peace With War Criminals" in which he urges the Egyptian Government to pursue the issue of the Egyptian POW's killed by the Israelis during the 1948, 1956, and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars. He begins his article by claiming that "Peace takes place with a people whose intentions are honest and actions are not criminal." He maintains that one cannot have peace with the Zionists, but capitulation, because they are "war criminals."

He notes that for the past 60 years, the MB has warned against the "malicious intentions" of this Zionist enemy against Muslims and Islam, but found no response from the Arab governments. He reminds the reader that the MB sent fedayeen to fight against the Zionist gangs, and they were almost successful in dealing the Zionists fatal blows had it not been for the international conspiracy in which some Arab leaders took part and thwarted the MB's actions. He recalls that the "1973 victory was exploited to sign the Camp David Accord or catastrophe" which prevented Egypt from fighting the enemy. Consequently, all Arab countries were prevented from fighting the Zionist enemy because of the absence of Egypt. Mashhur reviews the secret PLO-Israeli meetings which yielded the Oslo Agreement followed by the "extremely intriguing festival in Washington" and then a similar one in Cairo, all of which portrayed the agreement as a victory for the PLO. He notes: "The conflict between the Palestinian Authority and the Islamic Resistance is what the enemy wants; in fact, it encourages this conflict." He reviews Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's statements on the Taba Agreement signed in Cairo, which Mashhur maintains is worse than the Oslo Agreement, and notes Israeli measures to seize the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. He also quotes statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Peres on taming the PLO and sexual promiscuity in the Gaza Strip: "One of the achievements of peace is the appearance of some women who do not wear the head scarf in Gaza, and talk has gone around about flirting, kissing, and adultery among the Palestinians." Mashhur comments: "This reveals the Zionist objective to destroy Islamic values and morals and spread corruption and immorality which is one of the fruits of the normalization they are insisting on." He laments that some Arab governments are hastening to accept these points, as well as the destruction of our economy. He reminds Arab governments "to avoid dealing with this enemy in a way that will anger their people against them. We should not provide them with oil or gas or cooperate with them in any sector."

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Mashhur justifies the Islamic resistance's jihad inside Palestine because it is not terrorism, but a legitimate battle against the usurpers of the land. He accuses the United States of supporting the Zionist enemy by arresting those it brands "terrorists," the likes of Abu-Marzuq; thus, the United States gains the animosity of the Islamic people. He notes that many prominent PLO and Palestinian figures have washed their hands of the agreements being reached during the current talks, such as Faruq Qaddumi, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Edward Said, and others.

Moving on to the issue of the POW's, Mashhur accuses the successive governments in Egypt of having ignored this issue for many years, ever since al-Sadat's time, in order to pacify the Zionist enemy and because they do not care about the dignity of the Egyptian people. He maintains that the enemy killed the POW's because it sensed that our governments forfeit the rights of Egyptians and they themselves arrest and oppress their own citizens. He notes that the Zionist enemy respects and appreciates every member of its citizenry and demands their rights, even if it is just a corpse.

Mashhur concludes with the following: "Our hopes today are that the Government of Egypt proves that it appreciates its subjects and does not forfeit their blood or dignity. We hope it will not allow these crimes to go unpunished or be satisfied with an apology from the deceitful enemy or financial compensation for the families of the martyrs. Our government has to take the appropriate stance against the war criminals; it should not take the stance of a friend or consider these acts individual incidents.

"We consider this issue a test for our government, and we hope it will succeed in it. It will find us to be supportive and encouraging, particularly since we are on the threshold of new elections."

He explains that some newspapers reported that President Mubarak asked Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to prepare a comprehensive report on this matter. The papers also demanded that an Egyptian investigation team should interrogate the Israelis involved in the incident and that they should be tried in Egypt by an Egyptian court. He says that Egyptian lawyers must defend the Egyptian people, gather condemnations, try the defendants, and demand the appropriate punishment so that they go can down in history for their nationalistic stance. 0-word article by Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, page 5, affirms that "accepting the challenge" in the election arena does not mean that opposition parties have given up their demands to guarantee clean elections.

Murad points out that boycotting the previous parliamentary elections was "not wrong," since the opposition's absence from the People's Assembly "did not affect its power among the people or its political effectiveness." He says that opposition parties "proved their existence in the arena effectively; they led successful press and popular campaigns to uncover corruption and deviousness, defend human rights, shed light on the government's mistakes and its failing policies...., and demand improvement of citizens' conditions." He adds that this "caused concern for the ruling authority and pushed it into adopting oppressive measures and issuing unjust laws."

He repeats that "accepting the challenge with the ruling National Democratic Party in the coming parliamentary elections does not mean that opposition parties have given up their demands for guarantees to ensure free and clean elections."

Referring to the demands the opposition leaders submitted in a memorandum to the president, Murad affirms that the president's rejection of these "internationally recognized demands" will not prevent candidates from holding on to their legitimate right to record every violation of the elections law and refer it to the judiciary or to demand observers monitor the electoral process.

OPPOSITION INSISTS ON FREE, CLEAN ELECTION GUARANTEES

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WRITER EXPECTS 'RIGGING,' URGES CAUTION IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus' 500-word column "The Natives," page 12, predicts "tampering and rigging" in the coming parliamentary elections in November.

To prove his point, he notes that "the government that will supervise the elections is not neutral; it belongs to the ruling party" and that the recent mid-term elections were "a scandal for the ruling party" since nobody testified that they were held "in a free or neutral climate."

His "third point" is summed up in a question to the ruling party: "is the government willing to invite international observers to show the world how Egypt runs free and clean elections?" He answers the question by affirming that the National Democratic Party, NDP, refuses to invite anyone from abroad, under the excuse that "this is an internal matter."

In the "fourth point," 'Abd-al-Quddus notes that "the interior Ministry's computer," rather than a neutral body, will sort the votes to announce the results.

In the "fifth point," he notes that the ruling party "arrested the popular competitors who are capable of defeating the NDP candidates."

He finally emphasizes that these points are not meant "to discourage" but rather to urge candidates "to be cautious, stand fast, and fight the battle till the end to uncover the government's hooliganism."

EHRO DEMANDS INVESTIGATION INTO POW ISSUE

An unattributed 150-report, page 8, says that human rights organizations and trade unions "renewed their demand to bring to trial all the Zionist generals who committed the massacre against the Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars."

According to the report, the Egyptian Human Rights Organization, EHRO, called on the government to take "suitable measures" to inflict punishment on those who commit serious violations. EHRO called on all organizations concerned with human rights to "intervene with the Israeli authorities to launch an urgent investigation into the matter, publish the findings before worldwide public opinion, put war criminals to a just trial, and pay suitable reparations to the families of the victims."

'DISCIPLINARY CAMPAIGNS' TO ARREST GROUP LEADER

A 100-word report by 'Adil al-Bahnasawi on page 8 talks of "disciplinary security campaigns by the central security forces, supported by an armored vehicle" in the villages and urban centers in Dayrut and al-Qusiyah. According to the report, the campaigns are attributed to "a tip" that "Rif'at Zaydan, the fugitive leader of the Islamic Group" is hiding in one of the villages there.

The report claims that homes were stormed and that villagers were beaten and arrested "at random."

TUBERCULOSIS SAID TO SPREAD AMONG POLITICAL PRISONERS

Hasan al-Qamhawi writes in an 80-word report on page 8 that "tuberculosis has spread among political prisoners in the maximum custody prison known as the scorpion."

The report says that several detainees have complained to their lawyers of the lack of medical care.

The detainees' lawyer affirmed that the "Interior Ministry is deliberately working to spread the disease to kill the detainees with natural causes instead of liquidating them physically with bullets."

ISRAEL'S PAPER TO ECONOMIC SUMMIT OUTLINED

A 150-word report by Hasan al-Qamhawi on page 1 cites "informed sources" on the paper the "Zionist being" will submit to the economic summit in Amman.

According to the report, the paper will advocate setting up a "regional economic system in three stages to launch bilateral and multilateral projects and involve international establishments in the projects that require substantial financing."

The paper suggests "a common market embracing Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon" in addition to Israel.

"The Zionist project is supported directly and indirectly by the United States, the European Union, the international organizations, and Japan. This represents a kind of pressure on Arab governments to accept it," al-Qamhawi says.

WRITER ON THE UNITED STATES, ARABS, ISLAM

Majdi Ahmad Husayn's 5,000-word article, page 2, talks about "the difficult equation: America, Pan-Arabism, and Islam."

He begins by stating that he did not expect the U.S. troops to "launch a direct strike against Iraq" since

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"the U.S. media does not focus specifically on such a move...to prepare public opinion."

Posing the question: why did the United States dispatch all these troops to the region, he says that he found the answer when he "arrived in New York, which joins Washington in the decisionmaking." Citing the views of "political analysts" in New York, he explains that "U.S. hopes for the possible downfall of the Iraqi regime were revived after the defection of some of Saddam's relatives.... The U.S. government thought that this might be a sign of a swift beginning for the regime's downfall and that massing troops around Iraq will give this downfall the form of a U.S. triumph. It might even encourage a move by the opposition or a possible military coup, so that the U.S. troops can intervene when necessary at the request of the new rulers." He adds that President Clinton was "eager to achieve such a victory to improve his image in foreign policy."

Husayn then cites long passages from the NEW YORK TIMES, which writes that "the U.S. diplomatic mission in the Middle East has failed" because King Husayn refused to close the borders with Iraq, the U.S. campaign to mobilize a wide front against Iraq was received "lukewarmly" in the region, many Arabs and Muslims opposed more sanctions on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi opposition is still divided.

Husayn regrets that the NEW YORK TIMES attributes Saudi Arabia's motives to keep Saddam are "economic," since they want to maintain a larger oil output to cover Iraq's quota. He adds that the paper believes that Turkey fears the collapse of the Iraqi Government, which would encourage Iraqi Kurds to join their brothers in Turkey.

Majdi Husayn then cites speakers at a seminar he attended at a research center concerned with the Middle East. He concludes from their remarks that the "U.S. policy accepts no other alternative but to overthrow the Iraqi regime and subject that Arab state, not to a democratic regime, but to U.S. hegemony. Hence, the United States will continue to make excuses to maintain the sanctions on Iraq, no matter how much information it provides on its weapons of mass destruction."

Husayn sensed "a more balanced vision toward Arabs and Muslims" among researchers, Middle East experts, and "non-elected employees of the U.S. Administration." He also sensed a "growing tendency" to view the rising Islamic tide as a "genuine phenomenon" and that "within the next 10 or 20 years, a considerable number of Arab and Islamic states, Egypt included, will shift to Islamic rule." He points out that "elected politicians adopt the opposite view since....it is hard for a candidate for Congress or the presidency not to take Israel's side against Arabs and Muslims."

He notes that "sympathizers with Arabs and Muslims" believe that they gain new territory everyday and that they are "increasingly, though slowly, influencing the U.S. Administration." These "sympathizers" believe that once their hypothesis and expectations come true, officials will have to listen to them and seek information from them.

The writer says that he sensed "change for the better in some researchers' views."

He cites excerpts from "a dialogue" or a "mental exercise" he indulged in with Richard Murphy, former assistant secretary of state. He remarked to Murphy that the "United States wasted an historic opportunity to improve its relations with the Middle east after the collapse of the soviet Union" and that the fact that it is encountering no counteraction encourages it to keep up "its campaign against Arabs and Muslims." He pointed out to Murphy that this might be "safe" in the short run, but that "the U.S. interests will be harmed severely in the medium-and long run." Murphy replied that there is no campaign against Arabs or Muslims and that as "a superpower," the United States has "the luxury" to chose who to deal with and who to sever relations with. Murphy further explained that the United States no longer trusts Saddam Husayn and that Iran backs Hizballah and Hamas.

When Husayn asked him why he viewed Hizballah and Hamas as terrorists, although they are fighting to liberate their occupied land, Murphy replied: "We do not feel comfortable toward the growing Islamic movements that mix religion with politics and seek to rule forever." Murphy explained, however, that he "distinguishes between Hizballah as a Lebanese party opposed to the Israeli occupation and as an extension of Iran and an expression of its wish to export the revolution."

Husayn admits that international relations know only "the logic of power" and that when powers are balanced, an equal-sided dialogue, like that between the United States and Japan, can exist.

He states that "we do not oppose rulers for political reasons, but for matters of life or death. We have to float once again on the surface of earth and enter the world instead of sitting on the margin."

MUSLIM SCHOLARS CAUTION WOMEN AGAINST BEIJING DOCUMENT

Page 3 features the "text" of a 5,000-word "Message to the Women of the World," attributed to six Islamic scholars and thinkers: Shaykh Muhammad al-ghazali,

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Shaykh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Shuqqah, Dr. Muhammad 'Imarah, Fahmi Huwaydi, and Dr. Muhammad Salim al-'Awwa.

The message denounces "two acts of ignorance": the first is a remnant of pre-Islam paganism; namely, drifting away from religion; and the second is "a new paganism that is trying to sneak into Islamic societies, claiming to liberate women, while it actually downgrades them and deprives them of the freedom of choice."

Showing how Islam "equated" women and men in religious and secular matters, the message points out that this "equality" does not mean that men and women are "alike" or "identical," since women are distinguished biologically from men.

The message emphasizes that Islam "does not oblige women to work outside the home, making that the exclusive duty of a man." It states that Islam believes in "a dual-sexed society," balances the individual's rights with those of the society, without favoring one over the other, and stresses that a family is "a husband and wife linked by a legitimate knot."

After pointing out the "positive aspects" of the Beijing document, the message criticizes its call for a "single-sex society." It also criticizes "its failure to object to premarital sex among teenagers" and its call "to legitimize abnormal sexual relations." The message also denounces the document's reference to "wife rape" and the call for involving "aids patients" in drawing up policies and decisionmaking concerning that disease.

The message calls on all the "believers" of the world to unite and fight attempts to destroy their society.

WRITER RESPONDS TO PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S 'STATEMENTS OF THE MONTH'

In a boxed 600-word article on page 5 Mustafa Kamil Murad responds to "President Mubarak's statements of the month."

He notes that the president was asked if he had plans to call off the emergency law. He replied that canceling it requires "legislating a permanent law to fight terrorism." Murad responds to that by saying that the newly issued amendments on the penal code, state security courts, bank accounts confidentiality, and weapons and ammunition can truly be termed a "law of terrorism." Hence, he believes that these amendments are enough to call off the emergency law.

Murad refers to another statement the president made in his meeting with students of Alexandria University, in which he affirmed that "the press will not be privatized." Murad says that he wished the president had not "jumped ahead of events" by insisting on his viewpoint, specially since a special committee has been formed to review the press law. He thinks that the president's remarks might "embarrass" the committee and "force a certain view on it."

The third statement he cites is that in which President Mubarak prefers to keep ministerial changes "within the smallest limits to guarantee the continuity of the work" and prevent ministers from "adjusting their positions" with companies and establishments.

Murad remarks that this can be avoided by "banning former ministers from working in companies and establishments for a specific number of years after leaving the cabinet." He notes that this is stipulated by the existing companies law, which can always be amended to be "more accurate and strict."

Political Islam Review for 'AQIDATI 29 Aug

NC0609141795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 29 August edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Dr. Mahran Says al-Azhar Did Not Ask To Boycott Women's Meet
2. Writer Rajab Notes Muslim Countries Followed Egypt to Beijing
3. Islamic Council For Call, Relief Conference Discussions Reported
4. Editorial Urges United Muslim Stance at Beijing Conference
5. Column Criticizes U.S. 'Conspiracies' Against Islam, Muslims
6. Religious Convoys Discuss Terrorism, Islamic Fundamentalism
7. Shaykh al-Sha'rawi: State To Blame for Spread of Prayer Niches
8. Columnist Says Beijing Document Calls Antireligious

DR. MAHRAN SAYS AL-AZHAR DID NOT ASK TO BOYCOTT WOMEN'S MEET

Page 1 carries an unattributed 50-word report on a confirmation by Dr. Mahir Mahran, minister of state for population and family planning, that "Al-Azhar did not ask for a boycott of the women's conference in Beijing." He noted that al-Azhar's stance became very clear through the statement it issued last week in which "it did not ask the delegation to avoid travel to Beijing." Indeed, an al-Azhar delegation will attend the conference as part of the Egyptian delegation. Dr.

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Mahran said al-Azhar only commented on the negative aspects of the conference's document.

WRITER RAJAB NOTES MUSLIM COUNTRIES FOLLOWED EGYPT TO BEIJING

Samir Rajab, in his "Rightfully I Say" column on page 1, writes 400 words commenting on Egypt's concern for defending Islam and its teachings. The writer notes that after Egypt declared it will attend the women's conference in Beijing, many Islamic countries followed suit because they know Egypt carries the "documents" that speak of truth, honesty, and justice. He says this is only natural, since Egypt is the country of al-Azhar, which courageously expressed its opinion on the conference's document. "Egypt has taken a stance to clarify to the world that Islam is innocent of the claims, behavior, and false allegations spread by terrorism," Rajab asserts, adding that this changes the world's views and makes it understand that Islam hates violence. He concludes that Egypt will always "lead the convoys of the knowledgeable, the believers, and the pious" to confront anyone who dares harm Islam or wants to settle accounts with the Muslims.

ISLAMIC COUNCIL FOR CALL, RELIEF CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS REPORTED

Page 3 publishes a 1,000-word report by Jamal Salim on the Islamic Council for Call and Relief Conference, which took place in Cairo and was attended by many Islamic organizations. Some of the conferees criticized the Council sharply for its shortcomings. The report says: "Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq warned the Islamic organizations working in relief and call of the dangers of the confessional fanaticism that has led to a division of ranks and quarrels among the Muslims" and that has cost Muslims their prestige. He urged organizations to be forgiving and to accept every opinion and viewpoint. The conference also discussed the World Conference on Women currently convening in Beijing and decided to send a delegation to represent it at the conference. The Council also discussed Bosnia-Herzegovina and heard a report from the Bosnian delegation. The Council called on the rulers and governments of Islamic countries to support its action, not only in their countries, but worldwide.

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR UNITED MUSLIM STANCE AT BEIJING CONFERENCE

'AQIDATI's 300-word editorial is published on page 3 and comments on the World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing. The editorial notes that al-Azhar did not condemn participation in the conference, because "Muslims are required to participate in such conferences to express their opinion and present the Islamic viewpoint on every issue pertaining to humanity." The editorial notes that before leaving, the Egyptian delegation confirmed that it will adopt a strong stance on any text that violates an Islamic regulation or principle. Thus, Egypt confirms its adherence to moderation in Islam. The editorial calls for a united stance by all Muslims, as called for by al-Azhar's grand imam, "so that they can have an effective influence on the recommendations that will define the behavior and morality of countries for quite some time."

COLUMN CRITICIZES U.S. 'CONSPIRACIES' AGAINST ISLAM, MUSLIMS

Basyuni al-Halawani's 500-word "In All Frankness" column on page 6 alleges there are U.S. anti-Islamic and anti-Muslim stances worldwide. Al-Halawani asserts that the United States is concerned only with its own interests, even if it is at the expense of poor nations. The most important thing for the Americans is the dollar, he says, claiming that the Muslims have been receiving blow after blow from the U.S. Administration, be it in its support for Israel or, more recently, support for the Serbs in their war of annihilation against the Muslim Bosnians. He adds that the most recent of the conspiracies was with King Husayn against Iraq, which he calls merely a link in a chain of conspiracies and dramas being cooked up in the White House to weaken the Muslims. But he laments: "The issue is not the United States or its overt or covert aggressive policies. The basic problem is the issue of the Arabs and Muslims who have sold themselves and surrendered to conspiracies. They have even contributed to making the Islamic nation lose its top quality youths and squander its resources in wars from which we stand to gain nothing." Al-Halawani notes that all the Arabs and Muslims reject Saddam's policies but they will all be sympathetic to the government and people of Iraq when change comes from abroad, particularly if it comes from the United States, by which the Iraqi people have suffered terribly. He concludes that change must come from within and that the Iraqi people are capable of doing that.

RELIGIOUS CONVOYS DISCUSS TERRORISM, ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM

Pages 8 carries a 2,000-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi and Mustafa Yasin on a seminar organized by 'AQIDATI's religious convoy in a mosque in 'Ayn Shams. One of the topics discussed is that of terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism. One person attending the seminar says that some people are trying to distort Islam's image and accuse it of terrorism. He wonders what the Muslims should do to stop what he calls these vile attempts. Shaykh Mustafa 'Abd-al-Hadi replies that

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Islamic fundamentalists are carrying out the terrorist acts and claiming that Islam calls for killing innocent people and for bloodshed. He notes that Islam does not advocate such ideas and that the Koran calls for unity and amity among people. He says the time has come for the Muslims to lead the world again, on condition that their objective is raising the banner of Islam and spreading the call.

SHAYKH AL-SHA'RAWI: STATE TO BLAME FOR SPREAD OF PRAYER NICHES

Page 16 publishes a 500-word report on a meeting between Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi and around 800 girls at the Abu-Bakr al-Siddiq camp in Alexandria. He answers questions on various subjects. On manipulating religion and misleading youths, Shaykh al-Sha'rawi notes that "the first objective behind this is a plan for the seat of government." On current conflicts, al-Sha'rawi notes that wise people could have terminated these conflicts. He believes that the roots and the symptoms of these conflicts should be terminated, whereas now only the symptoms are being dealt with, not the roots. On the spread of small prayer niches from which cases of extremism are springing, al-Sha'rawi says: "The State is the first side to blame for this because it granted anyone the freedom to build mosques and preach." But he adds that each person should be able to judge for himself.

COLUMNIST SAYS BEIJING DOCUMENT CALLS ANTIRELIGIOUS

Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf writes his 400-word "A Call To Reason" column on page 24 in which he maintains that the conflict at the World Conference on Women in Beijing is between "a purely materialistic civilization that has taken a hostile stance on religion, marginalized it, and isolated it, not only from the State and government, but from society and life" and "a civilization where religion still represents the basic pillar in its intellectual and cultural structure." He maintains that the calls adopted in the conference document "lead, necessarily, to the spread of fornication and the breakup of social and family relations." He claims that these calls, which are backed by international organizations, "are not only anti-Islamic, but antireligious." This is why the first warnings against them came from the Vatican. He concludes that the responsibility of the Islamic delegations, particularly the Egyptian, is very big in rejecting everything that violates Islamic shari'ah.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Departs for Taba To Meet With Peres

JN0609135595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland today for Taba to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

In a statement to the press before leaving Gaza, President 'Arafat said: During today's talks, we will try to resolve all sticky issues, including the issue of the Israeli occupation forces' redeployment in Hebron.

Mahmud 'Abbas Confers With Israel's Yosi Beilin

JN0609144895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, PLO executive committee member, met with Yosi Beilin, Israeli economy and planning minister, in the occupied city of Jerusalem today. They discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Ahmad al-Tibi, President 'Arafat's political adviser, attended the meeting.

Justice Minister Confers With Israeli Counterpart

JN0609145195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Furayh Abu-Middayn, the Palestinian justice minister, met with David Liba'i, the Israeli justice minister, in Gaza today. Abu-Middayn said he asked the Israeli minister for information on the abduction and trying of four Palestinian citizens, as well as Israel's plans to grant Israeli citizenship to the collaborators.

Abu-Middayn added that he also demanded clarifications about the massacre the Israeli occupation Army committed against 400 Palestinian civilians in Khan Yunis in 1956.

Hamas Spokesman Confirms Formation of Party

TA0609162895 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Sep 95 pp 1, 22

["Exclusive" AL-QUDS report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, Intermedia — Reports have been circulating in Palestinian political circles for some months and weeks about the possibility of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] announcing the formation of a new political party which would operate

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openly and legally in the Palestinian political and popular sector.

This has been accompanied by increasing questions about the nature of the relationship between the party and the movement and about the political direction that the party will pursue in the future.

In order to shed light on these developments, AL-QUDS interviewed Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, the official Hamas spokesman in Jordan. He said that the idea of forming a political party has been under deliberation for two years. The party's constitution and structure have been drawn up and everything is ready. Nothing is left except announcing the establishment of the party.

He added that the green light to procalim this party has not been given yet and any statements to the contrary are inaccurate.

He noted that procaliming the party hinges on specific developments, most important of which is: Does the climate in the self-rule area promote the party's extension?

On whether the party will be proclaimed in Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, or the West Bank, Eng. Ghawshah said: No agreement has been reached so far on the venue for proclaiming the party.

On the party's relationship with Hamas and whether it will be a substitute for the movement, Eng. Ghawshah noted that Hamas is the root and this party will be one of its political wings and will not be a substitute for Hamas.

He said that the party will adhere to Hamas' viewpoint regarding the Palestinian problem whether from the political or ideological perspective.

On the differences between Hamas inside and outside over the establishment of a party, Ghawshah said that the idea of a party was discussed inside and outside. Some approved of the idea and others disapproved. Based on the majority's viewpoint, the movement decided to set up a party and give the green light for action when conditions become suitable. The problem is not inside or outside because a shura mechanism governs the party, but rather choosing the appropriate time.

'Ashrawi Denies Opposition Plans With Qaddumi

MM0609115695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Sep 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'Ashrawi: I Am in Touch With Qaddumi; It Is Not True That I Am Heading for Damascus"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, head of the Palestinian Commission for Human Rights, has denied that she intends to go to Damascus within the next few days to meet with the PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi, who is currently visiting Beirut and will return to the Syrian capital, to conduct talks with him on the formation of a Palestinian opposition front within the PLO itself.

Dr. 'Ashrawi said in a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday in Jerusalem that these reports are totally untrue and that there is no need for her to travel abroad these days, especially since she is constantly in touch with Qaddumi, who provides her with his views, papers, and proposals. And [she said] he constantly puts me in the picture regarding new developments in the region.

She stressed that her relation with Qaddumi is governed by respect and mutual friendship.

'Ashrawi added that she is not part of the political movement of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington negotiations, of which Dr. 'Ashrawi was a member. She pointed out that Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, whom she respects, has his own political movement and that she is not part of it.

It had previously been reported that Dr. 'Ashrawi and Dr. 'Abd- al-Shafi would head for Damascus soon to meet with Qaddumi and a number of Palestinian opposition leaders to coordinate positions between the two sides in the next phase.

'Arafat Said To Order Waqf To Move Near Settlers

TA0609122695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The offices of the Islamic Waqf in Hebron have been moved from the city's outskirts to an area of the old city abutting on Jewish population blocs. Shaykh al-Tamimi, one of the heads of the waqf, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the move was ordered by 'Arafat and designed to create a Muslim presence to offset the Jewish presence in the area. Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah called on residents who left the old city after being harassed by settlers to return home.

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Likud Knesset members [MK's] toured the Jewish neighborhoods in Hebron today. MK Binyamin Netanyahu told our correspondent Ron Nesi'el that Israel must not allow hundreds of armed Palestinian policemen into Hebron, leaving only a narrow strip for the Jewish settlers and the security forces. No one will be able to evict the Jewish settlers from Hebron without national endorsement, Binyamin Netanyahu said.

Palestinians Refuse To Assume Agricultural Powers

TA0709093695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians say they will not assume the agricultural powers they have received from Israel because the latter has seized two Palestinian agricultural farms in the Janin and Tulkarm areas. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem notes that the agricultural sphere was among the civil powers transferred to the Palestinians recently.

PA Demands Investigation of 1956 IDF Killings

TA0609152995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians are demanding that Israel look into claims that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers murdered 450 Palestinians in Khan Yunus during the Sinai Campaign. The demand was raised by Furayh Abu-Middayn, the Palestinian Authority's official in charge of the judicial system, in his meeting with Justice Minister David Liba'i earlier today. Khalid al-Qidrah, the PA's chief prosecutor, who also attended the meeting, said the events took place between 6 and 8 November 1956.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan notes that when he talked to Israeli journalists after the meeting, Justice Minister Liba'i did not tell them about the Palestinian demand, although he was asked whether other issues had been raised. The Justice Ministry tried to conceal the issue, but ultimately consented to confirm that Abu-Middayn had indeed raised the issue and that Minister Liba'i had asked him not to dwell on the past sins of both peoples.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian, Israeli Talks in Taba Continue

PA Minister on Hebron

JN0609161795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1407 GMT 6 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and trade and head of the Palestinian negotiations delegation, in Elat, by Yusuf al-Mahmud in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Mahmud] Abu 'Ala' [Quray'] good afternoon.

[Quray'] Good afternoon. You are welcome.

[Al-Mahmud] The negotiations are in their final stage. Are there any new developments?

[Quray'] In fact, I cannot say that significant progress has been made. Only very simple issues concerning drafting and some civilian issues have been resolved. But as for the basic issues, much time is needed before reaching an agreement. The security, civilian, and legal appendixes have not been finalized, the main issues continue to be the same — the issues of Hebron and prisoners. Even the issue of electricity resurfaced as well as the subject of water. Significant points of disagreement continued.

[Al-Mahmud] Can these issues be resolved before 18 September?

[Quray'] I do not know. It all depends on the meeting that will be held between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The two delegations exhausted all their energies to bridge the gap, and the positions remained completely different concerning the remaining issues, which are important and fundamental issues.

[Al-Mahmud] What has been agreed upon then?

[Quray'] Nothing has been achieved to bring the date of signing the agreement closer. In drafting, some progress was made, on civilian issues and on some economic issues, while on other issues no progress was made. We thought we reached an agreement concerning the land, but at night when we received the papers, we found that there is still a wide gap concerning this subject.

[Al-Mahmud] It is said that there are compromises concerning Hebron?

[Quray'] I do not think that a compromise on Hebron would be appropriate. Hebron is a Palestinian city, its people are Palestinian, and the city will remain Palestinian and its people will continue to be the same. The Israeli commander of the Central region said the city is either ours or yours. The city is ours, and it seems that the only solution is to evacuate settlers from the city and to redeploy Israeli forces as is the case with any other Palestinian city, such as Gaza, Jericho, Nabulus, and Tulkarm. There is no solution, I do not see any other solution, especially since there is an Israeli hesitation. If no decisive solution is reached, the future of the city of Hebron itself will be in question.

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[Al-Mahmud] Then the Taba negotiations this evening will be full of complex issues.

[Quray'] Undoubtedly. If the Taba negotiations resolve the subject of Hebron this will be a very important achievement. We will see tonight.

[Al-Mahmud] Do you think that this can be realized?

[Quray'] I do not know, really I do not know. If the delegation that is present here in Elat is the one that represents the Israeli position, then I think the gap is wide.

[Al-Mahmud] Do you face international pressures?

[Quray'] I do not think so, no, but we do not want time to be a pressuring factor on us.

[Al-Mahmud] Is 18 September the final deadline for the meetings?

[Quray'] I cannot say this. I hope that this will take place, but I cannot say for sure that we will make it. We will work, and it all depends on tonight and tomorrow.

[Al-Mahmud] Tonight and tomorrow, the pending issues will be resolved at the Taba meetings?

[Quray'] I cannot say the issues will be resolved, but they will be discussed in an attempt to resolve them.

[Al-Mahmud] Thank you Abu-'Ala', head of the Palestinian delegation, and we appreciate your great efforts in the Elat negotiations.

[Quray'] Thank you very much.

Hebron Said Major Issue

NC0609202595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1850 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 6 Sep (MENA) — Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the major issue to be discussed between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Taba today is the status of Hebron.

He emphasized that the Palestinian side insists on applying the Palestinian self-rule agreement to that city, just like all other West Bank cities.

Israel demands special status for Hebron, claiming that it includes a number of Israeli settlers who need security protection. The Palestinian Authority is strongly opposed to this.

Kanafani told MENA that if the two sides fail to agree on this, their negotiations will not succeed. He asserted that the Palestinian side refuses to put off discussion of that important matter.

He said that the Hebron issue is the major obstacle to the signing of an agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule and that solutions can be found to other issues.

He added that the Palestinian side is committed to signing an agreement on expanding self-rule once outstanding issues are resolved. He pointed out that the Palestinians will seek Egypt's help if the two sides fail to reach an agreement on outstanding issues tomorrow, Thursday.

A number of matters are still in dispute between the two sides, including the release of 6,000 Palestinian detainees, turning over the water and electricity supervision to the Palestinian side, participation by the inhabitants of Arab Jerusalem in the elections, and redeploying the Israeli troops out of Palestinian cities and villages.

Should the two sides fail to agree on a solution to these problems tomorrow, it will be hard to meet the 18 September deadline for signing the agreement in Washington.

'Arafat, Peres Hold Meeting

NC0609183395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 6 Sep (MENA) — Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a closed-door meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres upon his arrival in Taba a few minutes ago.

The members of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations are expected to join them to discuss outstanding issues and seek an agreement on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

Adviser on 'Arafat-Peres Meeting

JN0609203295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to and official spokesman for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, in Taba, by Ibrahim Milhim, in the studio, on 6 September—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kanafani] President Yasir 'Arafat and Minister Peres held a closed meeting for some time before inviting their negotiating teams to join them.

[Milhim] Do you expect any achievement during this meeting?

[Kanafani] We hope so, and we would like to say that the Palestinian delegation and the president himself have come here to reach a formula that is acceptable to both sides and that is in tune with the contents of the

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Declaration of Principles accord with Israel so that we can immediately apply the second stage of the accord. You know that after we arrived here this afternoon, the president met for one hour with the members of the Palestinian delegation to the Elat talks before meeting with Peres.

[Milhim] What are the most prominent issues to be discussed by President 'Arafat and Minister Peres?

[Kanafani] Brother Ibrahim, the negotiations are focusing on Hebron, Hebron, Hebron. This is the point. Of course, there are many issues of disagreement between us, but the Hebron issue will make agreement possible or impossible.

[Milhim] Will you accept a gradual withdrawal from the city by the Israeli Army?

[Kanafani] The gradual withdrawal is one of the points that can be considered if it is linked to a clear-cut, binding agreement in accordance with a timetable.

[Milhim] What about water, electricity and other issues?

[Kanafani] There are many issues of disagreement in addition to the water and electricity issues. If we overcome this difficult obstacle, a satisfactory agreement may be reached on other issues.

[Milhim] Will Hebron be a key to a solution to the redeployment issue?

[Kanafani] Hebron is the key to a solution.

[Milhim] How long will this meeting last?

[Kanafani] I believe that the meeting will last until late tonight. The president will visit President Mubarak tomorrow for a short while and then return to resume his meeting here.

[Milhim] Can we expect any solution to these issues before 18 September?

[Kanafani] We hope so. We hope we will sign an agreement on 18 September or on any other date. But before we agree on the date, we should reach an agreement.

[Milhim] Marwan, they say in Elat that there is nothing ready for signing?

[Kanafani] I do not want to give a pessimistic or an optimistic impression over the radio. Let us wait and see.

[Milhim] Thank you Marwan Kanafani, adviser to and official spokesman for President Yasir 'Arafat.

[Kanafani] You are welcome.

'No Progress' Reported

NC0709053595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 6 Sep (MENA) — Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres wound up their first round of talks here last night. In statements to the press following the round of talks, which lasted more than three and half hours, Peres said that the two sides exchanged views on the pending issues, particularly the issue of Hebron, which represents an obstacle to the two sides' efforts to work out an agreement concerning the expansion of self-rule.

Peres added that he will resume the talks with Yasir 'Arafat tomorrow, Thursday, on this and other pending issues. The Israeli foreign minister said that no progress has been made with regard to the topics discussed.

For his part, Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, said that the two sides exchanged views over all the contentious issues, expressing the hope that progress would be made when the negotiations are resumed tomorrow. Kanafani said that a Palestinian-Israeli committee was formed during the talks. The committee will discuss the issue of returning life to normal in Hebron, Kanafani added.

In his remarks, the Palestinian official said that the issue of Hebron represents the primary problem for the negotiations, noting that the Palestinian side insists that the expansion of the self-rule agreement should include the town of Hebron similar to the other West Bank towns.

'Arafat To Brief Mubarak

JN0709072295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Taba]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a new round of Palestinian-Israeli talks, President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres held a meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Taba yesterday evening. The meeting continued until a late hour. The two sides discussed obstacles to a final agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles agreement. The second phase centers on redeployment, holding legislative elections, and the transfer of powers to the National Authority in the rest of the West Bank areas.

The two sides focused on the issue of the city of Hebron, which is still a major obstacle to an agreement. The two sides exchanged views on this issue in a bid to reach agreement on it. 'Arafat and Peres first held a one-hour

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tete-a-tete, then an expanded session was held in the presence of the two delegations, which lasted around two hours. The meeting, however, did not produce any tangible results. The two sides did not agree on outstanding issues, especially on the issue of Hebron. The two sides said they will hold another meeting here at the Hilton Hotel in Taba this evening to resume discussions.

President 'Arafat will leave Taba this morning for Cairo where he will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to brief him on the latest developments in the negotiations and consult with him on the talks.

Economy and Trade Minister Ahmad Quray' and Major General 'Abd- al-Razzaq al-Yahya attended the expanded session for the Palestinian side. The Israeli side was represented by Yo'el Singer and Uzi Dayan.

Jerusalem Radio on Outcome

TA0709062395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shim'on Peres is planning to take a brief hike in the Taba area this morning, because 'Arafat is departing for a meeting with Mubarak. After yesterday's meeting, Peres has little to do for the next few hours.

In their meeting, Peres and 'Arafat reviewed all the difficult issues in the negotiations. They agreed about the problems but did not resolve the difficulties. Therefore, until 'Arafat returns from the meeting with Mubarak, Peres has some free time during which he need not make new decisions regarding the negotiations.

Yesterday's meeting lasted four hours — a short meeting when compared with their previous meetings. Peres summed up the general picture of the negotiations in very clear terms:

[Begin Peres recording] We started with the most difficult issue — namely, Hebron — but I cannot say we reached an agreement. Tomorrow morning we will continue to discuss the security aspects of the Hebron issue, with Israel being represented by Major General 'Uzi Dayan and the Palestinians by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya. This is one issue under discussion. Another issue we dealt with is a timetable for the conclusion of the negotiations. I think that both sides are interested in finalizing them as soon as possible, but only toward the end of the week will we know whether this is practical or not. The third issue was an agenda for tomorrow: I understand that 'Arafat will travel for a meeting with President Mubarak tomorrow morning. He will return toward noon, at which time we will start negotiating the electricity issue. I asked our energy minister to join these talks. Later we will discuss the water issue and, finally, the Hebron issue. So you can see that we have a full agenda for tomorrow. [end recording]

This is what Shim'on Peres said last night around midnight, after his first meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. Peres said that an agreement on the electricity issue is possible. He does not rule out the possibility of agreement on the water issue, which would be depicted as a significant achievement. The Palestinians, however — mainly their delegation head, Abu-'Ala [Ahmad Quray'] — keep returning to the Hebron issue. [passage omitted]

Abu-'Ala says that 'Arafat devoted most, if not all, of his meeting with Peres to the Hebron issue. This is the most vexing issue as far as the Palestinians are concerned.

Before the meeting with 'Arafat, Foreign Minister Peres said the negotiations are difficult and complex and that many problems remain. This is also what he said following the meeting, and this reflects the enormous difficulties which still remain on the path of the negotiations. Much work remains to be done, and there is still no date for the completion of the negotiations and for the signing ceremony. At this stage, 18 September seems to be merely a theoretical target date.

Kanafani on Israeli 'Flexibility'

JN0709085395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0505 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to and official spokesman for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, in Taba, by unidentified radio correspondent, in the studio, from the "News Day" feature — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Good morning, Marwan.

[Kanafani] Good morning.

[Correspondent] What was the outcome of the Taba meeting last night between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres?

[Kanafani] I do not want to say that the meeting produced nothing, and I do not want to say what it did produce. The president yesterday held a long private meeting with the Israeli foreign minister. Later, members of both delegations joined them. The president spoke about the Palestinian stand and the need for considering the city of Hebron — in terms of principle and implementation — part of the other Palestinian cities in which Israeli redeployment should take place

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and where the Palestinian National Authority should assume its responsibilities toward the Palestinians there. He explained this in a very clear way. Also, Minister Peres explained the Israeli Government's view on the situation in Hebron. As I told you, the Palestinians consider Hebron an important part and one of the cities which should witness redeployment and where the Palestinian National Authority should assume its responsibilities. On the other hand, the presence of Israeli settlers in Hebron makes this city, or part of it, subject to certain arrangements until the issue is finally decided in the future.

[Correspondent] Brother Marwan, then we can say that this meeting did not produce any positive results?

[Kanafani] New ideas were discussed. Today, a committee will meet in the Israeli city of Elat to lay down a plan for restoring normal life in Hebron. As you know, the president will leave for Cairo after a while to meet with his brother President Mubarak to exchange views with him. He will then return to Taba where he will meet once again with the Israeli minister this evening.

[Correspondent] Would you tell us about the ideas that were discussed during the meeting?

[Kanafani] I can say that the Israelis showed some flexibility yesterday in terms of implementation, not principles. I consider this progress.

[Correspondent] In light of this, can we say that the implementation of the second part of the Declaration of Principles will be possible on the proposed date, that is 18 [September]?

[Kanafani] As you know, the Palestinian Authority agreed on signing the accord on the set date and venue. However, we should first have an agreement to sign. This is the cause of concern for those who are here, not only for the Palestinians, but also for the Israelis. Any agreement should enjoy the consent of two parties. So far, the Palestinian side has not been satisfied with the Israeli stand on the city of Hebron.

[Correspondent] Brother Marwan, did the talks not deal with the other suspended issues, such as water, electricity, and detainees?

[Kanafani] I would like to say two things here. First, there are approximately 18 suspended issues which can be resolved if the issue of Hebron is resolved. When we talk about Hebron we talk about approximately one third of the West Bank citizens and about the largest Palestinian city in the West Bank. This is the basic issue. If we reach an agreement on Hebron, I do not rule out swift agreement on the other details.

[Correspondent] Then we can say that the solution has reached a bottleneck?

[Kanafani] It is even more difficult.

[Correspondent] Do you expect the Americans to intensify their presence to overcome this situation?

[Kanafani] The Palestinian side always believes that the international dimension of this problem and agreement is the way out when there is an impasse. The Israelis believe that we can overcome problems without external intervention, but we believe that the countries which sponsored the agreement are not external parties. This is not an agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis only, it also has become a regional and international agreement. It has become so through the participation of the neighborly states in the issue of the negotiations and in bearing witness to the signing, the sponsoring states, and the UN institutions because the agreement has become an official UN document. We believe that the international effort gives momentum to this agreement.

[Correspondent] You said that President Yasir 'Arafat will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today. What is the nature of this meeting?

[Kanafani] Presidents 'Arafat and Mubarak have warm and strategic relations because they represent two neighborly states which have common history, common interests, long standing friendship, and amiable fraternal ties. Their meeting is part of the series of contacts and meetings.

[Correspondent] At the end of this interview, we thank Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman.

[Kanafani] You are welcome.

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Algeria

Marchers Urge Zeroual To Run for Presidency

LD0409133295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Thousands of men and women of Bouira took to the street this morning marching in a number of areas in the province's capital and raising anti-terrorism banners.

Our correspondent from Bouira Abdallah Debbache filed this report:

The march started at 1000 from the court to the martyrs' square, where a petition was handed to the governor, which included support for Zeroual's candidature. The organization of martyrs' children and other association movements participated in the march. Here is what one of the march participants march said:

[Begin unidentified marcher recording] We have participated in this march to urge President Zeroual to run for presidency, because we have our full trust in him since his appointment as head of the state. Because of the difficult conditions the country is experiencing, all the people are calling for the candidature of this honest man, who loves Algeria very much. For all these reasons, the people are urging and calling for the candidature of this man. [end recording]

Democratic Socialist Party Member To Run

LD0609142595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taibari Saad of the National Democratic Socialist Party held a news conference at the Safir hotel this morning, during which he announced his intention to stand in the forthcoming presidential elections. During the news conference he said that the decision to stand was a contribution and an initiative by his party to find a solution to the country's crisis.

Islamic Society Head on Election Platform

LD0309230495 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mahfoud Nahna, president of the HAMAS Movement [Islamic Society Movement], has announced his intention to stand in the presidential elections after receiving the endorsement of his movement's consultative council. This came in the following statement made by Mr. Nahna today to the press at the Safir Hotel in Algiers.

[Begin Nahna recording] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate; God's prayers and peace be on His prophet, his family and companions. [passage omitted]

The situation in our beloved Algeria has seriously deteriorated as a result of a single vision characterized by the arbitrary use of power. This led to the aggravation of a stifling crisis which was brought about by the mentalities and practices of exclusion, extremism, and eradication.

You were, honorable people, the victim, the only victim of these practices and you were, people of Algeria, the ones who paid a heavy price with your lives, property, honor, and children because there is not a single home in Algeria which has been spared grief or tears.

Confronted with this political deadlock which has thwarted endeavors of reconciliation and the rounds of talks because of the failure of the parties to the dialogue and their intransigence, it has become obvious to all sides that it is necessary to return to legitimacy although we recognize that there is still disagreement over the ways and measures with which to return to this legitimacy which was lost through no fault of our own.

Dear citizens: It is our belief that the presidential elections are a religious duty and a realistic necessity. They are a step toward the settlement of the crisis or its alleviation because the homeland cannot remain in this serious situation without elected bodies. We stressed this often, even prior to the announcement made by the president of state.

These elections alone cannot put an end to the crisis unless all the sincere people of this homeland join their efforts and unless its higher institutions are committed to their constitutional duties and historical responsibilities in entrenching real democratic traditions devoid of all artificial practices which come from above.

Dear people of Algeria: My awareness of the huge responsibility is a feeling which stems from my love for this homeland for which one and a half million valiant martyrs offered their lives. This feeling, which is undoubtedly shared by every one of you, enjoins me, like it does to the other sincere children of this homeland, to do my utmost in order to bring the homeland out of the crisis and take it to safe shores. This was in response to a large number of citizens who are saddened by the situation in the country and its misfortunes.

This was also in response to a decision by the National Consultative Council of the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS, which put forward my candidature to shoulder this heavy responsibility despite the difficult circumstances. I am confident that you the people of Algeria will not shirk your sacred duty to express your testimony and assume your responsibility fully in order to

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enable all of us to stop the bloodshed, end the cycle of violence and hatred, and preserve the unity of the glorious nation of Algeria. We must preserve the unity of the nation by stopping those who are lying in wait for this nation and its people in their tracks. [passage omitted] People of Algeria: Despite the huge consequences, the great challenges and the controversial [word indistinct] the aim behind our participation in these elections is to help ease the situation at the political, security, economic, and social levels within the framework of a national reconciliation. The aim is also to denounce the use of violence in all its forms, to come to power or stay in it, and to widen the scope of dialogue and the base of power out of our desire to realize the slogan which we have always raised, namely: "Algeria was liberated by all the sincere people and is built by all the sincere people." Where are those sincere people?

Second, the return to legitimacy as a solution to Algeria's crisis and its ramifications and repercussions can only be achieved by rehabilitating the concept of "let the people have their say" as a law for changing government through elections.

Third, the establishment of a modern state which embodies the slogan "authenticity and modernity" through the revival of institutions which serve the homeland, its present and its future, in a democratic framework which takes into account the will of the majority and respects the minority — the ideological, political, intellectual, and cultural minority.

Fourth, we will endeavor to lay the foundations of a modern state which guarantees collective and individual liberties and embodies and entrenches the gain of multiparty politics.

Fifth, we will endeavor to achieve a break with the past which some have so often called for but who in practice never wanted to implement. We will endeavor to break with all the bad practices based on regionalism, nepotism, and the mentalities of villages and clans.

Sixth, we will also endeavor to achieve the principle of equal opportunities between all the children of this homeland in order to end their misery in the framework of fairness and beneficence and preserve the dignity of the citizens and the nation's sovereignty at home and abroad.

Seventh, we will work hard to improve the social conditions of the sections which have suffered from the accumulation of the "political decay" from the past and from the repercussions of the current crisis. We will also endeavor to give the young, the intellectuals, the experts, the scientists, and the cadres of the country, women and men alike, at home and abroad, the opportunity to rebuild the modern Algerian state.

Eighth, we will deploy all our efforts through Islam's vision of civilization. Not the Islam of charlatanism, or the Islam of backwardness, or the Islam of the right, or the Islam of the left but the Islam which was revealed to Prophet Muhammad. Such an Islam allows an attentive openness to the changes in the world which would enrich the democratic climate, at the regional and international levels. It also keeps up with the developments in the new international order in the framework of positive coexistence at the national and international levels and preserves the commitment of the Algerian state toward international agreements.

Brother citizen, sister citizen, brother in Islam and nation: By standing in the presidential elections we express the true concept of Islam in its political dimension which offers an alternative, deals with political reality and facts in an objective and responsible way, cares for the spirit of renewal, opens the door of exegesis, and takes advantage of the scientific and technological developments in all fields. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Sifi, Arab League Chief on Election Observers

LD0609154795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi this morning received Arab League secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who is on a visit to Algeria to discuss arrangements for sending observers to monitor the forthcoming presidential elections. After his meeting with the prime minister, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid made the following statement to the national radio:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] I was honored to meet the prime minister. It was a very constructive and useful meeting. I expressed my gratitude and appreciation for this invitation and for the hospitality and the welcome I am being accorded, and I expressed the Arab League's readiness to participate in monitoring the presidential elections in November. We consider this to be a fundamental step toward democracy, pluralism, and constitutional legitimacy.

We also reviewed the overall situation and developments in the Arab region and Algeria's vanguard role in development, economic reform, and efforts to strengthen inter-Arab relations. [end recording]

In reply to a question on whether an agreement was reached on an arrangement regarding the sending of Arab League observers to monitor the progress of the presidential elections, 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid said:

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[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] Yes, we have discussed them, and we are about to work out some of the details of this matter. [end recording]

On whether the opposition has contacted 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in order to arrange a meeting, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Majid recording] This has not happened. [end recording]

Kebir Rules Out Prison Contacts With Government

MM0609114295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Sep 95 p 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Rabah Kebir Tells AL-HAYAH: No Contacts From Prison After Today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] yesterday accentuated its position on the Algerian elections scheduled for 16 November and on the question of contacts with President Liamine Zeroual's government. Shaykh Rabah Kebir, chairman of the FIS Executive Committee, has told AL-HAYAH that the FIS urges the Algerian people not to sign lists of support for election candidates and "from now on" it will reject any contacts with the regime from "inside prison."

Kebir's position, which seems to have been strengthened after the "National Covenant" parties decided to boycott the elections, coincided with rumors in Algeria — which AL-HAYAH has been unable to confirm — that the commander of the FIS military wing asked Ali Kafi, the former chairman of the Higher State Council, to make efforts to bridge the views of the government and the FIS leaders. According to the same reports, that request was made by Shaykh Madani Mezrak, the "national amir" of the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS], in a message he sent to Kafi in his capacity as one of the mujahidin in the liberation war against France. During the liberation war Kafi was commander of the Jijel District (the second district where Mezrak is currently operating). The reports also say that the former head of state consulted the ruling political leadership on the matter and that he might announce an initiative in the next few days.

AL-HAYAH asked Shaykh Kebir about the elections. He replied that the FIS considers elections to be "a civilized process in line with the shura principle in Islam.... What made us decide to boycott the presidential elections in their present form is the lack of suitable circumstances for holding such elections. The priority is for the restoration of security and stability and for ending the bloodshed in the context of a comprehensive political solution negotiated between the opposition and the present authority. We believe that any solution outside that framework, including the proposed elections and any attempt by the authorities to impose a solution, would further complicate the problem, not solve it.... We urge the public not to support any of the candidates in these elections, which are a dangerous maneuver."

What is the FIS' position on the dispatch of foreign observers to supervise the voting process? Kebir said: "We caution the international organizations that their agreement to support the presidential elections in the present circumstances would be seen as collusion against the Algerian people's interests and an alignment with the current regime. These organizations are supposed to be impartial and an element of reform and nothing else."

Did that mean that the FIS was advising against the dispatch of observers to Algeria? He replied: "We have not heard that any state has announced willingness to support the elections by sending observers. We reject foreign interference in Algerian affairs. That is why we wish that states which respect their peoples would also reject the undemocratic elections."

On contacts with the government and current mediations for the resumption of the dialogue, he said: "The reports which speak of contacts between the FIS and the authorities are totally unfounded. The FIS rejects any mediation on that matter and rejects trusteeship over it by anyone. From now on the FIS will reject any contacts with the authorities from inside prison. That is the official position of the FIS. At any rate, the position and views of the FIS on how to end the crisis are clear and well-known. The FIS is committed to the National Covenant with its political partners and it is committed to the 19 June document submitted by the FIS leaders to government officials. The two documents contain the feature of a comprehensive and just solution for the Algerian people's problem."

On the claims about a Mezrak message to Kafi, he said: "I have already said that the FIS leadership is known and does not need any trustees. Whoever wants to deal with it should turn to its leadership."

Will the FIS participate in the meeting of the National Covenant parties in France in the middle of this month? Kebir said: "We are interested in all the activities of the group. There is continuous coordination and consultation between the members of the National Covenant group." He pointed out that the France meeting would not be "a third conference of the opposition parties abroad (like the two Rome conferences)."

Does that mean that the FIS will participate in the France meeting? Kebir replied: "The FIS participates with the rest of the Covenant members in all meetings."

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Car Bomb Causes Material Damage, 11 Wounded

LD0609200395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The hands of terrorism and sabotage have struck again against the gains made by the people since independence through struggle and sweat.

A booby-trapped car exploded today near the storerooms of the Algerian television corporation in Algiers district of Eucalyptus, as shown in the picture, causing material damage and wounding 11 people, most of whom have received first aid treatment and have been discharged from the hospital.

This barbaric act highlights again the hatred of the terrorists and criminals towards all the people. Those who were wounded in the the booby-trapped car explosion were simple workers who had chosen to serve the homeland, and were surprised, while working, by the hands of crime attacking them with a booby-trapped car in a barbaric way devoid of all qualities of humanity.

Security Forces Kill 15 'Terrorists'

LD0609204695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fifteen terrorists have been shot dead by the security forces during search operations in several parts of the country over the last few days. Several batches of weapons were recovered on that occasion.

Customs Agreement Signed With Tunisia

LD0609230395 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Minutes of a meeting were signed today within the provisions of the bilateral customs agreement between Algerian and the Tunisian customs. It was agreed to revitalize cooperation to solve the question of certificate of origin on goods exchanged between the two countries; to combat falsification and smuggling in all its forms; and to exchange information in all fields related to the customs sector. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Palestinian Leader 'Arafat

NC0709093195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this morning. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, foreign ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, attended the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and information in the Palestinian Authority and member of the PLO executive committee; Minister of Local Government Sa'ib 'Urayqat; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestine's ambassador in Cairo.

The Palestinian president arrived in Alexandria earlier today.

Musa Leaves for Paris Meeting on Bosnia

NC0709083895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has left Cairo for Paris on a two-day visit to France. During the visit, he will attend a joint meeting of the Islamic and international contact groups on Bosnia. The two committees' meeting in Paris tomorrow, Friday [8 September], was proposed by France.

Musa on Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting, Paris Meeting

NC0609151595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that President Husni Mubarak will meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat tomorrow. The meeting is part of the constant consultations between Egypt and Palestine.

On another topic, Musa said the meeting in Paris tomorrow of the International Contact Group and Islamic Contact Group on Bosnia is in response to a French proposal based on an Egyptian initiative submitted last year for the purpose of coordinating between the two groups. Musa said the Paris meeting is being held amid drastic circumstances and developments in the Bosnian issue, especially following NATO's intervention and the U.S. involvement after a long wait.

Musa added that there is now a possibility of imposing a peace plan in Bosnia. He explained that due to opposing the peace plan and continuing their aggression the Serbs are now being hit by NATO. They also have suffered defeat by Croatia. This has created new circumstances, which we hope will be thoroughly exploited to promote at a real settlement, not one where pressure will be put on the Muslims of Bosnia. Musa said the Islamic Contact Group will accept whatever the Bosnian Government accepts.

Musa will leave Cairo for Paris tomorrow to attend the joint meeting of the Islamic and International Contacts Groups.

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50 MB Defendants Referred to Military Court

NC0709092795 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Najwa 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[FBIS Translated Text] A republican decree was issued yesterday referring 50 Muslim Brotherhood [MB] defendants to the Higher Military Court. The military prosecution is expected to pass the ruling and set a date for the trial of the defendants within two weeks.

The defendants are accused of joining a secret illegal organization in an attempt to overthrow the regime. They are also charged with possessing computer diskettes containing the organization's ideology and its contacts with terrorist cells in Sudan. According to the charges, the defendants recruited a number of youths to take part in the next People's Assembly elections. Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, assistant secretary general of the doctors' association, is one of the defendants.

Musa Receives Ethiopian Message on Investigation

NC0609200795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received a message this evening from Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mesfin Seyoum when he received visiting al-Mahdi Ahmad, head of the Middle East section in the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Al-Mahdi stated that the message deals with the findings of the official investigations into the foiled assault on President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa. He said that Minister Musa had met with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and the Ethiopian foreign minister for the same purpose in Addis Ababa two days ago.

Al-Mahdi said his country condemns Sudan's involvement in the frustrated attempt, adding that this is viewed as interference in Ethiopia's internal affairs. He affirmed also that Ethiopia demands Sudan hand over the three fugitive terrorists in accordance with the extradition agreement the two countries signed in 1964.

Weekly Gives Details of Attempt

NC0609114895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—The magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reports that the defendants detained in the attempt to assassinate President Mubarak in Ethiopia have admitted that fugitive defendant Husayn Shumayt Siraj ran the attempt from Addis Ababa Airport using a walkie-talkie radio.

In its issue to be published on Friday [8 September], the magazine says that when Siraj learned that the operation had failed he left Addis Ababa aboard a Sudanese plane using a false Ethiopian passport directly after President Mubarak left. The magazine says Mustafa Hamzah and Siraj had been in Addis Ababa eight months before the operation to follow up on the arrangements and supplies and to ensure that a large part of the explosives and weapons reached the defendants through the Sudanese Embassy in Ethiopia in three containers on board Sudanese Airways flights. Some of these weapons and explosives were seized in the defendants' den and were packed in Sudanese diplomatic pouches. The defendants said the Sudanese security agencies were involved in the operation. The magazine says the plans and preparation for the operation were completed by the end of last year and that the people tasked with carrying out the operation were waiting for the Addis Ababa conference and President Mubarak's participation. It says the planners' goal was to assassinate President Mubarak; kidnap was not on the cards.

Sudanese Embassy Involved

NC0609183095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Important information and facts have been revealed about the involvement of the Sudanese Embassy in Addis Ababa in facilitating the movement and entry of members of the terrorist group accused of attempting to assassinate President Mubarak. Informed sources confirmed that some embassy officials helped transport shipments of weapons, explosives, and rocket-propelled grenades from Khartoum to the Ethiopian capital in three containers on board a Sudanese Airways plane. These were then handed over to the culprits to use in the operation. A diplomatic pouch was found in one of the hideouts with bombs and weapons inside.

The sources told AL-AHRAM correspondent Ahmad Musa that the method of transporting the weapons—including Kalashnikovs, RPG's, mortar shells, hand grenades, and explosives made from ballistic [balistiyah] materials, whose force exceeds that of TNT (which is the same kind of explosive produced abroad, some of which was seized in Kawm Umbu after being smuggled from Sudan)—was on a Sudanese Airways plane. This cargo was transported inside three containers sent to the Sudanese Embassy in Addis Ababa and from there to the hideouts rented by the terrorists.

The sources noted that three Sudanese rented the three villas in the area near the airport for the members of the terrorist group, who entered Addis Ababa in various ways and met at the hideouts.

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The responsible sources told the AL-AHRAM correspondent that terrorist Mustafa Hamzah went to the Ethiopian capital accompanied by officials from the Internal Security Department who are cadres in al-Turabi's Front and who are familiar with Addis Ababa. They inspected and mapped out the area where President Mubarak's motorcade would travel right after leaving the airport. They pinpointed the place where the attack would take place and where his motorcade was to be attacked by a booby-trapped car containing 100 kg of explosives. The car was wired with explosive devices. Terrorist Hamzah 'Ali Nasir and his group were chosen, and they received advanced training on how to carry out the nefarious attack. The defendant Hamzah—who was sentenced to death for the attempted assassination of the information minister and organizing the returnees from Afghanistan—managed to return once again to Khartoum accompanied by security officials.

The sources confirmed the involvement of one of the leaders of the Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood Group—Ibrahim Abu-Hasanayn, who lives in Khartoum—by helping the terrorists and providing them with financial support. His telephone number was found inside one of the terrorist hideouts in Addis Ababa.

Previously, this leading Sudanese figure also sent equipment to the terrorists in Sudan from Pakistan inside aid parcels, which were discovered by the Egyptian security departments in July 1995.

Paper Urges Measures Against Sudanese Leaders

NC0709071995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has called for the formation of an international investigating committee to verify the existence of terrorist farms in various parts of Sudan. The aim, it adds, is to isolate the Sudanese Government from the international community and extricate the defenseless Sudanese people from their plight under the gang which spends their money on terrorism and professional crime.

In its editorial today, the paper says the al-Turabi gang's treacherous crime of attacking the man who raised the standing of Egypt and all Arabs everywhere cannot pass without a commensurate response so that the perpetrators will not go unpunished.

The paper notes that there are several ways to punish the leaders of this ruling gang in Khartoum, because President Mubarak has confirmed that he will not carry out any measure that would harm the Sudanese people who are already experiencing difficulties and hardship.

The paper emphasizes that there is no reason to remain silent any longer about this clique which devoted its efforts to acts of treachery and terrorism, especially after its filthy involvement in the failed attempt on President Mubarak has been proven beyond doubt.

Al-Baz Demands Israel Hold Inquiry Into POW's

NC0609183895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that Egypt demands that Israel hold a serious, fair, and just inquiry based on facts into the issue of the killing of Egyptian POW's.

Enumerating these facts, al-Baz said they include the treatment of prisoners in the various wars, an investigation of all the charges against those responsible, and informing Egypt of the outcome of this inquiry.

Al-Baz said Egypt considers this issue very important and sensitive because it concerns the lives of Egyptian citizens and touches on the way Israel deals with prisoners' rights.

Al-Baz said Egypt does not accept the rationale that the killing of the prisoners took place a long time ago. He reiterated that Egypt demands a fair inquiry that will determine the facts.

Envoy Urges Investigation

NC0709080695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Ambassador to the United States Ahmad Mahir has emphasized that the killing of Egyptian POW's by the Israeli forces in the 1956 and 1967 wars is a war crime not subject to the statute of limitations. He added that the crime was not revealed by Egypt but by confessions made by its perpetrators.

He said Egypt has several legal ways to handle this issue based on international law and agreements which oblige Israel to conduct the necessary investigations. He asserted that no good neighborly relations can exist on an unsound basis and as such, serious investigations into such crimes is required.

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Newspaper Continues Criticism of Israeli Ambassador

NC0609161295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Sep 95 p 12

[From the "Frank Word" column by Mahmud Bakri: "The Butcher Ambassador"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its Tuesday [29 August] issue AL-SHA'B exposed the criminal role played by David Sultan, the Zionist enemy's ambassador in Cairo, in torturing and killing 100 Egyptian POW's. People's Assembly member Kamal Khalid then called for the arrest of the butcher ambassador and said that he should be court martialed in Egypt for his crimes against our kin, the Egyptian POW's.

We believe Kamal Khalid's demand is the minimum response needed to these abominable crimes. How can a government that respects its martyrs and its people's feelings, accept having a butcher who is accused of committing these ugly crimes running the enemy's embassy and remaining free on Egyptian soil for even one moment?

Some might claim that diplomatic practice and norms preclude the arrest and trial of an ambassador. This reasoning is accepted by government officials, who pay no attention to the homeland's issues and dignity. However, facts show that the Zionists are a treacherous and treasonous people who respect no pledge or promise. Observing the so-called "rules of diplomatic etiquette" is a way to avoid facing reality and replying to the butchers. How can we respect diplomatic norms and rules for bloodsuckers who tortured our prisoners, mutilated their bodies, and buried them alive?

The deep wound grows every day in the hearts of all Egyptians who have been appalled by the confessions of the butchers and murderers and the leaks of ugly stories about the slaughter of our prisoners. This government must know that calls for revenge are resounding in every Egyptian home. The government must realize the intensity of the pain gripping the hearts of the relatives of all the missing. These stories of massacres have reopened their wounds. They realize that their kin taken prisoner were tortured and treacherously killed.

This dumb and mute government must speak up, hear the sighs of the bereaved, feel their pain, and share their sadness.

The minimum reply to these scum's crimes is to arrest the butcher ambassador, try him for his crimes, arrest all embassy members, and examine the role of each of them in the slaughter of the prisoners.

I am almost certain that the majority of these spies were among the butchers who massacred our relatives. Let our revenge on them be commensurate with the magnitude of their abominable crimes.

Paper Sees Prospects for Iraqi-Iranian Alliance

NC0609210795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes that current developments in the Gulf region have restored the prospects for a strategic alliance between Iraq and Iran.

The paper points out in an editorial tomorrow, Thursday [7 September], that the growing pressures on the Iraqi and Iranian regimes have pushed them to think seriously of setting aside their differences and working toward greater rapprochement and a closer alliance in order to confront what they view as common threats due to U.S. pressure.

The paper says that this development in their bilateral relations has been expected for some time. The United States has had a policy of "dual containment" toward the two countries since May 1993, seeking to surround them and prevent them from threatening U.S. interests. This has led observers to believe that these two countries could be driven to rapprochement and alliance, AL-AHRAM says.

The paper adds that Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement, if it happens, might further complicate the web of regional relations in the Gulf. A more balanced formula is needed to deal with these two countries, AL-AHRAM says.

Libya

Police, Muslim Militants Clash in Benghazi

NC0709082495 Paris AFP in English 0806 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Marsa Matruh, Egypt, Sept 7 (AFP) - Clashes have broken out between Libyan police and Moslem militants in the city of Benghazi in eastern Libya, travellers crossing the border to this north Egyptian town said on Thursday [7 September].

The travellers, both Libyan and Egyptian, reported casualties on both sides in the fighting but did not specify how many, describing the situation as "very dangerous."

They said the armed clashes flared up on Wednesday in response to a speech made by President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the anniversary of the September 1 1969 Libyan Revolution in which he attacked Islamic extremists whom he said had "infiltrated" his country.

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Fighting continued on Thursday, the witnesses said.

Libyan police have also stepped up searches of Egyptian fisherman in Libyan waters, accusing them of smuggling weapons to militants, the witnesses said.

Clashes broke out in June in the same region along Libya's Mediterranean coast after police raids on Moslem militant leaders.

In his address last Friday, al-Qadhdhafi said attacks by Moslem extremists in Libya were the work of "American and Zionist intelligence services" and slammed the groups as "heretical".

Earlier this year the Libyan parliament granted the interior and justice ministries wider powers to combat "heresy", the term used in government circles for the militants.

Libya has always denied the existence of any home-grown fundamentalist movement and says extremists have infiltrated the country from abroad.

Commentary on Expulsion of Palestinians

MM0709105195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Sep 95 p 17

[Article by Joseph Samaha: "Expel a Palestinian..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is expelling foreign workers from Libya, especially Palestinians, and has urged all Arab states to deport all Palestinians to the self-rule area. This action's "noble" aim is to show the failure of the peace settlement by forcing the Palestinians of the diaspora to return to their homeland. Come what may, this is a safe bet. If Israel refuses to allow them to return "the world will see that the peace it is promoting is a conspiracy and treachery." The natural results of this discovery would be disastrous for Tel Aviv. And if Israel allows them to return, it will fall into a trap, because their return would create a demographic situation favorable to the Arabs, Israel would become like South Africa, and all that would be needed, logically, would be to topple the "apartheid" system and get rid of Zionism once and for all.

The proposal is valid, indeed simple and obvious, to the point that it is now possible to consider anyone who persecutes a Palestinian and deprives him of his daily bread and his forced exile a fighter for Arab Palestine. The colonel, remembering his military rank, has previously demanded that Arab states let him lead their armies so that he can march them on Jerusalem to liberate it and restore its people's rights. When the Arabs hesitated, al-Qadhdhafi shelved his project. Then he soon realized that he could establish a bridgehead he could use, so he sent Libyan pilgrims on an exploratory mission to Jerusalem. We cannot rule out that the information they brought back on their return helped him hatch his latest plan, which could have the following headline: Expel a Palestinian and kill an Israeli!

In this context, the PLO's condemnation of this mass deportation becomes clear evidence of its involvement in the "conspiracy" against its own people. It is not opposing this racial oppression of the Palestinians so much as coordinating with Israel to cushion it from the impact of the return, proving that it has become a "border guard" trying to prevent the colonel from enjoying his favorite hobby of hatching plots to destroy the State of Israel. Clear evidence of that is the fact that the self-rule authority is preventing the workers from heading for Israel, so as not to change this action from being evidence of the Arabs' impotence into an indirect occupation of the Hebrew state. In this, it opposes al- Qadhdhafi's proposal, when it should be applying it to the letter, out of loyalty for its cause, to expel the Palestinians from every place on earth free from occupation and deport them to Israel, to break the demographic balance, having despaired of ever breaking the strategic balance.

It would have been possible to take no notice of this Libyan talk, but the problem is that what has been said is actually being applied. What is intended by this is to use the Palestinian workers as ammunition in a bid to lift the boycott imposed on Libya. And while no one will argue with Libya over the necessity of lifting the sanctions and rejecting the U.S., British, and even French pressures, to remain silent about this type of action is totally unacceptable. It is customary to resort to "talking big," especially about Palestine, when preparing for a new phase of general deterioration. The Libyan talk is not unusual in this respect, except for its ability to introduce a comical element in this major tragedy.

What appears to be the outline of a smile after listening to these positions, is in fact an expression of nausea beyond control....

Morocco

Ministers Hold Trade Talks With Egypt's Mahmud

LD0609232095 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The visiting Egyptian minister of economy and trade has held talks with a number of Moroccan ministers. They focused on the means for bolstering cooperation between Morocco and Egypt in the sphere of trade and economy.

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The meeting between Mohamed Alami, minister of foreign trade, and Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, the Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade, focused on the means necessary to give a fresh momentum to the two countries' trade exchanges. It was also an opportunity to highlight the important role played by the private sector in both countries and the important reforms which have been introduced in the sectors of trade and finance in both Morocco and Egypt.

The talks between Driss Jettou, minister of trade, industry, and handicrafts, and the Egyptian official dealt with the measures necessary for boosting bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and industry. The two sides stressed the need for increasing trade on solid grounds in benefit of both countries.

Further, the importance of the Egyptian official's visit and its impact on the two countries' cooperation in all fields, including the exchange of expertise between Moroccan and Egyptian officials in charge of the private sector as well as businessmen from both countries, was stressed at the meeting which brought him together with Mr. Mohamed Kabbaj, minister of finance and foreign investments. [passage omitted]

However, the aforementioned rounds of talks were crowned by a fresh protocol which will complement the trade agreement that was signed between the two countries in 1988. The protocol was signed by Mohamed Alami, minister of foreign trade, and Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, the Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade.

[Begin Alami recording] This protocol will give a fresh momentum to trade exchanges between Morocco and Egypt. We are trying, with such protocol, to give the private sector new opportunities within our comprehensive endeavours aiming at achieving total liberalization of trade between Morocco and Egypt in such a beneficial way to both fraternal peoples and countries. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Sudan

Numayri Postpones News Conference 'Indefinitely'

NC0609134595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—A news conference by former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri slated to be held in Ismailia on 7 September has been postponed indefinitely. At the news conference Numayri was scheduled to announce the formation of a Sudanese government-in-exile.

'Abd-al-Salam al-Amin, information official of the Working People's Forces Alliance, which is headed by Numayri, said the conference has been postponed for technical reasons. He added a new date for the news conference will be set later, after the necessary consultations with the concerned Sudanese parties.

Bodies of Nationals Killed in Ethiopia Flown Home

EA0609210095 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The bodies of the two martyrs, Dr. Abdullah Ahmad al-Ja'li and Muhammad al-Fatih Yusuf, who were killed in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa last Saturday [2 September], arrived at Khartoum airport this afternoon. Leading the people who received the bodies was Mr. Awad al-Karim Fadlallah, the first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, and a number of other officials from the ministry.

Sudan has accused foreign quarters of masterminding the evil incident, which, it said, was aimed at spoiling relations between the people of the two countries. It has also asked the Ethiopian authorities to inform Sudan of the outcome of the investigation.

Foreign Ministry Views Killings

EA0609162995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The foreign ministry's regular press briefing yesterday dwelt on Sudanese-Ethiopian relations. Ambassador Jalal Atabani stressed Sudan's efforts and its eagerness to contain the current crisis with Ethiopia, and also its readiness to hand over the wanted person to the Ethiopian authorities. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile in a press briefing at the ministry today, his excellency announced that the assassination of the two Sudanese in Addis Ababa was organized by foreign quarters that wanted to harm relations between the people of Sudan and Ethiopia.

He said Sudan rejected the claim that the motive for the operation was personal, and said that it was organized by a professional. Pistols with silencers were used and the firing was accurate.

He said that Sudan had asked the Ethiopian authorities to investigate the incident and to inform it of the details of the investigation.

Ambassador Atabani asked the Ethiopian authorities to conduct an investigation as thorough as the investigation into the attempted assassination of the Egyptian president, especially since what had happened to the Sudanese was genuine assassination. He demanded that Sudan be informed about the progress of the investigation into the operation which was organized by a foreign

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quarter. He said the bodies of the two murder victims are expected tomorrow.

Taha Discusses Libyan Deportation of Citizens

EA0609114695 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1800 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Taha asserted that participation of the president of the Republic, General al-Bashir, at the celebrations marking the 26th anniversary of the Libyan revolution reflected the Sudanese people's support to their Libyan brothers.

Mr. Taha said in a press statement al-Bashir has concentrated with the situation of Sudanese citizens in the Libyan said town [as heard] and directed the Sudanese authorities to accord special treatment to the Sudanese returning from Libya.

The foreign minister added that the Libyan decision of deporting some Sudanese nationals working there came in the context of the procedures adopted by the Libyan authorities for organizing the foreign workers' stay in Libya. He added that Libya was not the first country to adopt such procedures and explained that the Libyan decision covered workers from different Arab and African countries.

Official Asks Arabs To Be Wary of Israeli Plan

EA0609122795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, has condemned the Zionist plan to convert the Islamic city of Jerusalem into a Jewish city. He was highlighting the celebration by the Zionist entity today in Jerusalem, its allegation that it owns Jerusalem on the basis of history and civilization and its invitation to diplomatic missions to take part in the celebration.

Khalifah said this unjust Zionist plan makes the peace process an impossible matter. He added that the Israeli enemy had transcended all the international covenants and charters and violated the so-called Oslo accord.

Khalifah asked the Islamic Conference Organization, the Arab League, and the Jerusalem Committee to bear their responsibilities toward the Zionist design to convert holy Jerusalem. He affirmed that Sudanese parliamentary branches will move, through solidarity with Arab and Islamic parliamentary branches, to raise this issue in the conference of the international parliamentary union in Bucharest next month.

Khalifah called on Arab and Islamic leaders and people to be vigilant toward the Zionist plan, which is targeting the Arab identity.

President al-Bashir Meets Human Rights Delegation

EA0609162695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, Staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, today in his office at the Council of Ministers met a delegation from the human rights advisory council, led by the justice minister and attorney general, Mr. 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu.

The delegation presented the president of the Republic with a report on the activities of the council and its future plans.

Mr. Fathi Khalil, leader of the lawyers and chairman of the International Islamic Human Rights Organization, said the delegation congratulated Lt. Gen. al-Bashir on the brave and revolutionary decision taken by the president and the national Security Council to free political detainees and prisoners, thus emptying all Sudanese prisons of any political detainee or prisoner.

IMF Delegation To Report on Economic Performance

EA0609203595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A technical mission from the IMF which is currently on a visit to Sudan, will begin its work next Saturday [9 September] for following up and preparing of a report on the country's economic performance for the last fiscal year, besides discussing the second three-year economic program, which was endorsed by the National Council for Economic Planning a month ago.

The mission will submit its report to the meeting of the IMF's board of directors scheduled to convene later this month to discuss Sudan's relations with IMF for the next period.

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Bahrain

Country Reasserts Sovereignty Over Hawar Islands

MM0609133995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Bahrain: "Hawar an Integral Part of Our Territory"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Manama, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The Bahraini Government reemphasized yesterday that "the Hawar islands, situated in the Arabian Gulf, are an integral part of its territory, and that it has the absolute right to embark on any actions it deems suitable on its territory, which falls under its sovereignty, without any intention of harming brotherly relations between it and the State of Qatar."

This came in a memorandum that the Bahraini Government sent to the Qatari Foreign Ministry yesterday in reply to statements made to a Qatari newspaper by Qatari Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, in which he said that Bahrain's establishment of projects in the Hawar islands violates the principles adopted to resolve the territorial dispute over these islands between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Holds Talks With South Korean Minister

LD0609115395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 5 Sep (KUNA) — The South Korean minister of trade, industry, and energy had a meeting with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah today.

Later on, the visiting minister met Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al- Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister.

The Korean minister arrived in our country yesterday on a three-day visit as part of his Gulf tour, during which he has visited Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar. The visit to Kuwait aims at strengthening the distinguished bilateral relations, particularly in energy and oil. Kuwait is considered one of the main countries from which Korea imports oil and natural gas.

Oman

Minister Visits Iran To Discuss Iraq Developments

MM0609133695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sa'id 'Isa: "Omani Foreign Minister Discusses Iraqi Developments With Tehran"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Muscat, Amman — Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, yesterday began a surprise visit to Tehran that had not been announced. Diplomatic sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Iraqi situation will be one of the two main topics in the Omani-Iranian talks. [passage omitted]

In Muscat, Bin-'Alawi stressed that the next Gulf Cooperation Council summit, scheduled to be held in Muscat next December, will discuss developments in Iraq. Informed sources in Muscat have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Bin-'Alawi's visit to Tehran, which he began yesterday, is directly linked to two issues: First, bilateral relations, which Bin-'Alawi described as "developed, cordial, and positive." Second, the recent developments provoked by Iraqi events represented in the defection to Jordan of President Saddam Husayn's sons-in-law, and their consequences, especially the U.S. exercises in Kuwait and Jordan, which coincided with Iranian exercises on the border with Iraq and Iranian deployments in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir on Domestic Issues, Foreign Policy

JN0309175795 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, has stressed that economic reform in the country will continue. The private sector will be encouraged to play a greater role in development. His highness underscored the major projects carried out by the State of Qatar over the past two years in the areas of gas, petrochemicals, and fertilizers.

In a comprehensive interview with the Qatari newspaper AL-WATAN, published today, the beloved amir stressed the importance of the principle of shura, which laid the foundations of popular participation. He noted that this principle could develop whenever there is a need for this.

His highness said the current cabinet includes a fine team of the country's sons, adding that the appointment of new ministers is not an objective in itself. The

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objective is to allow Qatari young men to serve their homeland either through assuming a ministerial post or by other means.

On the cancellation of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Housing as part of the recent cabinet reshuffle, his highness the amir said: If public interest requires reinstating this ministry or other ministries in the future, then we will do this without hesitation.

Answering a question on the educational system in the country, the beloved amir of the country stressed the importance of reconsidering the educational system so it can keep up with recent world developments and meet the needs of the country.

On his view of the local press, his highness the amir said that a serious study is under way to cancel censorship of the press and to implement self-censorship by which every newspaper is responsible for this job.

His highness also spoke about foreign issues. Answering a question on a recent announcement in Bahrain about a touristic project to establish a hotel on Huwar Island, his highness said: This is a violation of the principles that govern the framework of a solution, to which the two sides have adhered. These principles do not allow such actions and state that such actions shall have no legal effect.

His highness hoped that such actions will not affect the brotherly ties between the two countries and their fraternal peoples. He hoped that the brothers in Bahrain will cooperate, alongside their Qatari brothers, with the International Court of Justice to reach a fair solution to this dispute. This will achieve the interests of the two countries and peoples.

Regarding the beloved amir's visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, his highness said that this was his first visit outside the country after he assumed power. He added that this visit took place in light of the special fraternal relations between the two countries, noting that the visit promoted ties of brotherhood and cooperation in the interest of the peoples of the two countries and the Gulf region.

On the recent developments in Iraq, the beloved amir pointed out that regardless of the circumstances and the reasons behind General Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan, this will continue to be a purely Iraqi affair. He stressed Qatar's concern about safeguarding Iraq's unity, its territorial integrity, and noninterference in its internal affairs. He said that the issue of power in Iraq is at the heart of the Iraqi people's rights.

Answering a question on Qatari mediation between Iran and the United Arab Emirates on the three islands, his highness said: Qatar [words indistinct] between the two fraternal countries to reach a cordial and peaceful solution to the three islands issue [words indistinct]

On the Qatari-U.S. relations, the beloved amir described the two countries's relations as relations of friendship and cooperation, pointing out that the United States shows respect for Qatar's national and pan-Arab convictions and its commitments to its Arab and Islamic nation.

Answering a question on Qatar's contacts with Israel, His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani stressed that talk about the normalization of relations with Israel and the establishment of diplomatic relations with Tel Aviv is premature, reiterating Qatar's concern about advancing the Middle East peace process.

South Korean Trade Minister Meets With King

SK0509133695 Seoul YONHAP in English 1255 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Sept. 5 (YONHAP) — International Trade and Industry Minister Pak Chae-yun, now on a tour of the Middle East, on Tuesday paid a courtesy call on Qatar King Khalifa Bin Hamad al-Thani.

A report reaching his ministry said that during the call, Minister Pak conveyed President Kim Yong-sam's personal message to the king and exchanged opinions on matters of mutual concern.

Minister Pak, in particular, asked the king for the kingdom's exceptional consideration for advancement to Qatar by South Korean industries.

King Al-Thani called for early conclusion of a contract for the introduction of Qatar liquefied natural gas [LNG] and for the construction of a motor plant in Qatar by a South Korean firm.

The Qatar king also requested that President Kim will visit Qatar at a time convenient to the president.

On Monday afternoon, Minister Pak met with Qatar Government leaders on the issue of Korea's possible introduction of about 2.4 million tons of LNG from Qatar a year.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD0409182995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jiddah, 4 Sep — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin Abd al-Aziz, crown

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prince and deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard, informed the council of ministers in its session chaired by his highness this afternoon, at Salam palace in Jiddah that the prominent success of the economic activities in Saudi Arabia and its development plans were due, after God's guidance, to the Kingdom's adoption of the theory of free market economy. His Highness, God preserve him, stressed the importance of facilitating the movement of capitals to and from Saudi Arabia. He pointed out that the development planning in Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Servant of the Two Holy Places King Fahd Bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, was balanced and comprehensive. [passage omitted]

His Highness the crown prince also talked about the tragedies experienced by Bosnian Muslims and the Serbian practices and attacks against them in many Bosnian towns, without discrimination, among which was the savage attack against women, children and elderly in a Sarajevo market which killed and wounded tens of people.

His highness appealed to the international community to halt the Serbian aggression and their blatant defiance by taking further firm disciplinary measures against the brutal Serbian troops. [passage omitted]

After taking cognizance of the motion of prime minister's office; and after reviewing the resolution of the Shura Consultative Council; the council of ministers approved Saudi Arabia's membership to the agreement of the child rights of the General Assembly of the UN on 20th November 1989 as drafted by the Shura resolution with reservations regarding all issues which contravene with the Islamic Sharia' A royal decree draft has been prepared and is attached to the resolution.

Reforms, Subsidy Cuts Planned To Balance Budget

NC0409125995 Paris AFP in English
1049 GMT 4 Sep 95

[By Nadim Kawash]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 4 (AFP) — Saudi Arabia plans to carry out sweeping reforms and cut subsidies to restore balance to its budget, but it faces an increasing bill of services to its fast-growing population, experts said on Monday [4 September].

Although the world's leading oil producer and exporter has decided to hike fees on telephone, electricity and aviation, its commitment to providing free education, health and water to its people will unlikely be affected.

"Services to citizens constitute a major burden on the budget but I don't think they will be affected by spending cuts," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at the Saudi National Commercial Bank.

Allocations for health, education, water, communication and social services stood at around 55 billion Saudi riyals (14.6 billion dollars) in 1995, accounting for more than one third of the 40-billion-dollar budget. Another 10 billion riyals (2.66 billion dollars) were earmarked for social aid.

The figure is far higher than a decade ago as the population was around two thirds of the current population of nearly 18 million.

Experts said the value of services would steadily rise in the coming years as the Saudi population is growing by between three and four percent annually because the government is encouraging natives to have more children.

They expected the government to rationalise such services by making them more efficient but they ruled out any major cuts in such allocations.

They referred to the sixth development plan, which would focus on upgrading services to the citizens apart from development of the non-oil sector.

The 1995-1999 plan stated that one of the government's strategic goals would be to develop the Saudi society, provide it with social and health care and allow it to effectively contribute to development programmes, the experts said.

"The state coffers could receive less funds in the future due to the drop in oil prices at a time when financing social services for the citizens depends mainly on the oil income, which accounts for more than two thirds of the total revenues," said Ihsan Abu- Hulaykah, an expert at the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (GOIC).

"The question is: how can we maintain the level and quality of such services? The answer could be through increasing non-oil earnings, encouraging the private sector to play a greater role, upgrading the efficiency of social programmes and encouraging the cooperative societies and other commercial and charity organisations to set up economic and social projects."

Apart from services, Saudi Arabia is also burdened by high spending on weapons as part of plans to bolster its army following the Gulf war.

Such commitments have combined with a decline in oil prices to create a large deficit in its budget, peaking at around 33.6 billion dollars in 1991 before easing to nearly 10.6 billion dollars in 1994. The shortfall was slashed to around four billion dollars in 1995 after the Kingdom trimmed expenditure.

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The sixth development plan, details of which were released two months ago, forecast spending of an average 40 billion dollars a year, one of the lowest expenditure levels in Saudi history.

But the plan includes other unique features as it focuses on privatisation, attracting investment, and increasing non-oil revenues.

Privatisation plans, announced by King Fahd last year, cover airport services and the national airlines, water and electricity and other sectors. These would be coupled with cutting subsidies, another major burden on the Saudi budget. But the government has ruled out imposing income taxes after such a move triggered mass resignations eight years ago.

"Contribution by the private sector to social services has become necessary. The government should now determine the extent of such a contribution to ensure such services remain intact," Abu-Hulaykah said.

Dailies Devote Editorials To Bosnian Airstrikes

LD3108130795 Riyadh SPA in English 1224 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Aug 31, SPA — Saudi papers on Thursday devoted their editorials to comment on the recent air- strikes launched by the NATO forces against the Serbian strongholds in Bosnia.

The Jeddah-based, AL-MADINAH, welcomed the air-strikes and said depite the fact that such necessary actions came very late, yet it is hopeful that the step would settle matters and help in ending the disorder swept the Bosnian and Balkan arena over the past months.

The force option, which the NATO forced to implement, has been welcomed by the international community except for Russia which is known for its enthnic bonds and solidarity with the Bosnian Serbs, it said and added the recent air strikes, which were largely linked with the vicious and brutal attack of Sarajevo, might be considered as a pain-killer and the Serbs might return to such vicious acts if they realise that the NATO and the international community are not serious enough to face up their constant vilolation of the international law and human rights.

AL-RIYAD said the NATO's bombardment of the Serbian positions in Goradze and Tuzla is not the first and might not be the last as the NATO accustomed to make such moves in the aftermath of any brutal act such as the recent Serbian aggression on Sarajevo in which many innocent civilians were killed or wounded.

The paper made the point that if such air strikes were only spared as punitive measure, they would eventually lead to nothing and will not provide a lasting settlement for the crisis. It added that the only effective measure to be done by United States and Europe, if they really want to settle the problem, is to lift the arms embargo imposed on the Bosnians and enable other countries, particularly Islamic ones, to provide defensive assistance to the Bosnians for legitimate self-defense.

Tackling the same issue, AL-BILAD, published in Jeddah, said the Bosnian people has fed up with condemnations of the Serbian repeated aggressions because such mobilization of support could not save the victims and feed the starving people.

The paper cited statements made by the Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbegovic in which he highlighted the courageous and noble stand of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-Abd- al-'Aziz, the Saudi people and government which extended an air bridge to dispatch food, medicine and relief materials for the Bosnian people to enable them of facing up the aggression amid the shameful and helpless stand of the United Nations and the international community.

AL-JAZIRAH, of Riyadh, said the implications of events in Sarajevo on wednesday uncovered the determination of the Serbs to go-ahead with the genocidal war against the Muslim population and not for the land which they pretend to fight for. The paper said the premature reaction of the Serbs on the NATO bombardment and their in discriminated shelling of Sarajevo proves that they could not be intimidated by the air-strikes and they are not ready to bow for the international will

Similar views were expressed by the Jeddah-based, 'UKAZ and the al-Dammam-based, AL-YAWM which said the success airstrikes against the Serbian strongholds prove the fact that those aggressive people could understand nothing except the language of force. They said if the NATO's forces continued to show determination and firmness, the Serbs will eventually make up their minds and may repect the international legitimacy.

Yemen

Paper Sees Signs of Friction in Coalition

YRG Shuns People's Congress Gathering

95P50167A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Aug 95 p 1

[Article by Naji al-Hirazi in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Many questions have been raised by the absence of representatives of the Yemeni

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Reform Grouping [YRG, also known as Islah] at yesterday's festivities celebrating the thirteenth anniversary of the founding of the General People's Congress [GPC] which were attended by a large number of Yemeni political parties and organizations.

The official reason for the YRG absence is not known. A GPC source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, "They were expected to attend and to deliver a speech; however, they first informed us that they would not give a speech, then they came back and said that they would not even attend the festivitites—neither in their capacity as a party nor in their capacity as a member of the coalition government. So we decided to have a representative from one of the other Yemeni political organizations or parties give a speech." The speech was delivered by 'Abd al-Rahman Mihaywab from the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party.

This source opined that some of the hardliners in the YRG leadership want to profit from the recent dispute which erupted because of a PGC circular which took a biased position against the YRG minister of supply and trade. It was this dispute which Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih settled, indicating that there was pressure to convince the PGC to accept some of the YRG demands and special appointments if the coalition were to continue. [passage omitted]

YRG Supporters Favored for Employment

95P50167B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Aug 95 pp 1,4

[Article by Naji al-Hirazi in Sanaa]

[FBIS Translated Text] The two governing coalition parties, the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] are bent on retaining the differences between them on a number of deep-seated issues even as the political rumor mill in Sanaa is buzzing with speculation about the future of the association between them in the wake of the noteable absence of YRG representatives at a celebration honoring the thirteenth anniversary of the GPC's founding.

Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih, in a statement broadcast yesterday, insisted that the coalition between his party, the GPC, and the YRG, headed by Council of Deputies President Shaykh 'Abdullah bin Husayn al-Ahmar, is a strategic—not tactical—alliance. He explained: "They are participating with us in the struggle to defend Yemeni unity." However, at the same time, President Salih said that he did not discount the possibility that one day the Islah party might want to withdraw from the coalition, indicating that in this scenario he would move to form an elected government by calling for general elections.

YRG sources denied linkage to their non-participation in the GPC's thirteenth anniversary festivities, saying that there were many people who didn't show up at the party, including President Salih himself.

The invisible differences between the two allied parties have begun to appear in the ministries which are headed by YRG ministers in that those ministers are administering the affairs of their ministries in their own peculiar way—not destined for acceptance by the GPC supporters who work there.

In the YRG-controlled ministries—health, awqaf, education, local administration, supply and trade—GPC supporters are not retained; there is a tendency to remove them and replace them with people from the ranks of the YRG.

These ministers have begun to behave in a manner that is "unfamiliar and outside the norm," according to a source in the GPC who said that the YRG ministers have gone so far as to issue decisions appointing new general directors and to effect major reorganizations that are normally the purview of the prime minister. Likewise, they have begun to remove old employees who have expertise simply because they are associated with the GPC.

The GPC issued a circular recently that requested its members not to cooperate with the supply and trade ministry and its offices so that this problem could be exposed. According to a GPC source, the minister of supply and trade ordered the hiring of nearly 12,000 officers who already had jobs to oversee the distribution of wheat and flour (which the public treasury supports by importing it at an official exchange rate of 12.1 riyals to the dollar) without any coordination on this with the GPC. Other administrative and technical problems have already occurred because of a lack of coordination between the two ruling coalition parties.

Concerns Said To Grow Over Islamist Movement

95LH -244B Kuwait AL-MUJTAMA' in Arabic 31 Jul 95 pp 44-45

[Article by Hafiz al-Shaykh]

[FBIS Translated Text] The writer of these lines had the chance to spend a few weeks in the Yemeni Republic about this time last year, moving between Sanaa, Aden, al-Mukalla, and other areas. He witnessed the final chapters of the war for the defense of Yemen's unity and experienced with the Yemenis the most critical hours of profound anxiety and anticipation and the happiest hours of public solidarity, devotion, and sacrifice. This, according to the Yemenis, has been unprecedented in Yemen's modern history. He also lived among them

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for a while after the war ended and the rebellion was crushed. Then, the people breathed a sigh of relief and life regained a measure of calmness. The anxiety caused by the violent war turned to sudden general calm, similar to what happens to people after a long stormy day when everyone turns inward and plunges deep into a silent meditation and private monologue.

It was clear then that the Sanaa authorities were able, through various clever political maneuvers and successful, elegant diplomatic and media signals, to win over to their ranks, their Arab and international parties which supported President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in different ways. The Sanaa authorities were unable to win the complete support of some other parties, but they were able to at least neutralize and persuade them not to interfere in the conflict, upset the balance by force, or cooperate with known local and regional forces on certain aspects that could strengthen the rebellious forces logistically or politically or give them some sort of legitimacy. It was also clear then, although to a lesser degree, that there was a deadline which should be met some day when these Arab and international parties begin knocking at the door of President Salih, reminding him of the favor they did for him and demanding that he return the favor and reward them for supporting him during the war, or at least for refraining from supporting his local and regional adversaries, regardless of how big their favor and its real effect on the outcome of the war was. It is extremely doubtful whether a country like Egypt or a big international power like the United States, would not ask Sanaa to return the favor. This assumption almost becomes a certainty in light of the following four facts:

The first fact is that the Yemeni Republic is geopolitically and strategically important, whether in the context of the Arabian Peninsula, the wider Arab world, or the Horn of Africa, which is apparently growing in importance particularly with the consolidation of the salvation revolution in Sudan.

The second fact is that the existence of the modern Islamic movement in Yemen is legal and legitimate, and it directly participates in the government. The government has been able to dispel fears about the existence of the Islamic partisan movement and refute widely held views in the Arab homeland, such as in Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia, which advocate the removal of the Islamists, containing them, uprooting them, or "drying their springs" on the pretext of their unsuitability, in principle, for modern political life.

The third fact is that the intellectual and political life in Yemen and the existence of pluralism is full of vitality and room for growth. The richness of the intellectual and political life in Yemen, as manifested in the press, the government media, the permanent or seasonal academic and semi-academic platforms, or the party meetings, conferences, and other such activities, is real and not fictitious. This richness has become part of the general national culture. It is a reality that shows serious involvement, which is not just ceremonial as in many other Arab states.

The fourth fact is that the new American-Zionist plan in the Arab homeland—that is, the plan that emanated from the Madrid conference—cannot ignore Yemen or strike it out of consideration. Sooner or later, it will face the demand for participation in the plan, under the terms of its sponsors and according to their interests. If Yemen has not heard the voice clearly until now or has thought that it could disregard it, it will definitely get to its ears tomorrow or the day after. Then Yemen would have to hear the complete chorus of instructions, or, in the best of cases, the so-called "expectations," not only regarding its foreign policy toward the peace process or the normalization of the relations with the Jewish state, but also, just as important, about its purely domestic policies. Yemen will be asked to rearrange its house in the economic, cultural, or social fields to become in tune, even if necessary by coercive means, with its desired foreign policy, and not to undermine the American-Zionist plan in any way.

If we carefully notice the threads linking these four facts, if we carefully read the overall results of the recent fifth conference of the People's Congress Party, and if we compare all these with various signs scattered on the sidelines of some of the recent Yemeni foreign contacts, we will reach the logical conclusion that if President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih chooses to give priority to the American-Zionist regional plan over internal matters, as is the case in most countries of the Arab and Islamic worlds, he would eventually reach the point of confrontation with the Islamic movement or specifically with the Yemeni Grouping Movement for Reform, and consequently create a less tolerant and more repressive regime. The details of the assumed confrontation remain subject to more than one assumption or possibility. In other words, they will not be an exact copy of what is happening between the Islamic movement and the Arab regimes associated with the American-Zionist plan, because every Arab country has its own peculiar conditions that cannot be imitated.

Of course, the possibility of a "coup" against the Islamic movement in Yemen remains a mere hypothesis, at least until now. Still, perhaps there is no objection to raising this possibility as a warning and out of concern for Yemen. Observers of the Yemeni scene have recently noticed an upsurge, most probably not

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spontaneous, in the influence of known secular and pro-American trends in President Salih's party during the recent party conference. Such a development could have repercussions in the external and internal policy fields, considering that this is the state party and is the strongest and richest in Yemen, by any standard. It is the ruling party, even if the Yemeni Grouping Party for Reform is a minor partner with it in the government.

The Islamic movement made a unique contribution and great sacrifices in the war for the defense of the Yemeni unity. If it had not been for the vanguard Islamic youth volunteers, who advanced ahead of the army in many places, the rebel strongholds in several areas, including the great, semi-legendary al-'Anad base, would not have crumbled. Therefore, if an attempt is made now or later to contain the Islamic movement in Yemen or to turn against it completely to repay favors due since last year or to complete new transactions now, most probably what happened many times before in the Arab world's recent history would be repeated; that is, the secularists will reap the fruits of what the Islamists have planted and watered with their blood.

Interior Minister on Security, Crime Issues

MM0609085995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Sep 95 p 5

[Interview with Yemeni Minister of the Interior Colonel Husayn Mohammed 'Arab by Faysal Makram in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Makram] Could you talk to us about the security conditions in Yemen from the time of the recent war until now?

['Arab] Like all the other institutions, the security machinery suffered great losses and numerous disorders during the years of the transitional period that followed the unity [of North and South Yemen] of May 1990. During the period of the war, which was sparked off by the secessionists, particularly in the southern and eastern provinces, and which caused devastating losses as a result of the [Yemeni] Socialist Party's [YSP] attempt to destroy the security machinery and the corruption of the police, [and since then] we have been working hard to eradicate the devastation that was so widespread and thus needed intensive work to redress. I can say, however, that the state of security in all the Yemeni provinces has been witnessing a great deal of stability and a drop in the crime rate to a very low level compared to our population numbers and our country's geographical nature.

What concerns us in the security machinery is that its vital apparatuses should perform their role and adapt themselves to the democratic course that now prevails in the country, particularly as the men of security in what used to be known before the unity as South Yemen used to do whatever they wished, paying no attention to the law and the Constitution in dealing with the people, because the rule of the Socialist (Party) was totalitarian...we are now working to eliminate all manifestations of the past so as to instill in the security apparatuses (the conviction) that they constitute an instrument of discipline governed by the Constitution and the laws in force.

[Makram] Can it be said that Yemen is one of the countries that suffer from organized crime, be it political or otherwise?

['Arab] There are two types of organized crime: The first is crime by political organizations.... We have closed the door almost completely in the face of this type of crime, particularly as the Ministry [of the Interior] does not pursue any person because he entertains different political views, because there is no law for political harassment. We deal with crimes on the basis of evidence and the law.

The second type of organized crime is that which is connected with specific interests. We will not permit anyone, however important he may be, to commit any crime or disturb peace and stability just because he is a politician or has a political character. This is what we have actually established.

[Makram] Yemen has witnessed incidents of kidnapping of diplomats and foreigners and tourists...how do you explain these incidents...what are the means used at present for combating them?

['Arab] The incidents of kidnapping, of which numerous cases took place during the political period that preceded the recent war, were nourished and backed by the YSP. They included kidnapping of diplomats, tourists, and foreigners working in investment companies as well as (the theft) of cars. As the YSP was behind these incidents in the past, this phenomenon has disappeared now.

The YSP wanted at the time to make public opinion in the outside world believe that Yemen was an unstable country so as to create a distorted picture of Yemen and Yemeni citizens and embroil the country in conflicts with fraternal and friendly countries. But all their endeavors have ended in failure.

[Makram] I have heard that some non-Yemeni elements have been detained by the security machinery and that they were arrested on charges of political terrorism and religious extremism. What is the truth about this and have you handed over Egyptian elements to the security machinery in Egypt?

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['Arab] I wish to recall here something I said before. We in Yemen will not permit anyone, whoever he may be, to detract from the security of the homeland or the citizens. There were some elements who wanted to practice political terrorism in Yemen. But the Yemeni security machinery adopted the necessary measures and arrested a number of such elements who belonged to various non-Yemeni nationalities. We shall deal rigorously with those who try to harm the security and stability of the country or detract from them.

With regard to the other parts of your question, I can say that the Yemeni Ministry of the Interior has not handed any extremist terrorist elements to the Egyptian authorities because there is no security agreement between the two countries. There are some people under investigation and the matter does not warrant all this exaggeration. We hold extremist Islamic elements as well as other elements belonging to political terrorist organizations who are engaged in terrorist activities...measures in this regard are still continuing.

[Makram] Some people say that there are camps for "Islamist" extremists in Yemen. How would you reply to that?

['Arab] These are false allegations and have no basis of truth. It is known that the secessions in the YSP, at the time of their alliance with them, repeatedly tried during the political crisis and the war period and also after that, to harm Yemen and the Yemeni people and distort their image before the world [sentence as published]. Their traitorous actions included such matters as the spreading of such lies, which unfortunately, were propagated by "unjust" information media abroad. We defy anyone who utters such talk about Yemen. Yemen does not approve of terrorism, wherever it may be, and it denounces and fights it. Anyone who claims to possess such reports should come to us and tell us where these camps are situated. Yemen is a democratic country and it is anxious to preserve the security of other countries as much as it is anxious to preserve its own security and stability.

[Makram] Measures have been taken against peoples of different nationalities who live in Yemen. What were the reasons for these measures and what sort of measures are these?

['Arab] The Yemeni Ministry of the Interior has over 2,000 detainees of different nationalities, who were arrested because of their illegal residence and their illegal entry into Yemen. These elements had exploited political intrigues and the protection accorded to them by the secessionist and influential forces in the former authority to practice acts detrimental to security. They also included burglary gangs, drugs and contraband gangs, and gangs that engage in other matters that undermine security.

The competent authorities have been continuing their investigations with the detainees. It should be noted, however, that these measures and these people do not affect the Somali refugees in Yemen, who number 10,000, because these people are legally resident in camps in Ibb province and they carry special cards and are under the protection of the Yemeni Government and UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East] supervision.

The Yemeni Ministry of the Interior has repeatedly announced two to three week periods of grace for those members of the different nationalities who are in Yemen to register themselves with the various departments and provide adequate information about the way they entered the country and the work they do. Other than that, we shall not deal with these elements except in accordance with country's law and regulations.

[Makram] What is the attitude of the Yemeni Ministry of the Interior toward the tribal wars and armed conflicts which are continuing to this today?

['Arab] The social structure in Yemen leads to tribal feuds and incidents of the use of guns. These are old problems but they are not tribal wars as some try to depict them. These are tribal problems and conflicts during which gunfire takes place, rarely causing any loss of life. I say rarely does such a thing happen, because their causes are not political. Mostly, they are due to vendettas and feuds over land as well as inherited personal disputes.

Naturally, we do not accept them and try to resolve them and intervene quickly to arrest the parties concerned. We plan to explore the causes of these tribal vendettas in our country and resolve the disputes between individuals and groups so that security may prevail throughout the entire country.

[Makram] The Yemeni Government has asked Interpol to hand over to it four elements of the YSP abroad. What has happened in this regard...do you plan to ask for new elements?

['Arab] A few months ago, in accordance with international law and tradition, the Yemeni Ministry of the Interior asked Interpol to hand over four of the secessionist leaders of the YSP and those allied with them on the basis of numerous charges following the completion of the investigations by the competent judicial authorities. We have files pertaining to other elements on the list of 16, on whom investigations have been completed. We have asked Interpol to carry out its task. But we

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shall not wait for long and will submit files on all elements on the well-known list of 16 for trial within the next few weeks. The trials will lead to the unmasking of other elements that participated in the high treason and the carrying out of actions detrimental to the country's security and unity, particularly those elements who have failed to benefit so far from the general amnesty granted to elements not included in the list of 16.

[Makram] What is the position of the Yemeni security machinery toward opposition elements abroad?

['Arab] We consider the opposition outside the country as acting in contravention of the internal democratic course, which provides full opportunities for anyone to express his opposition. According to our Constitution, our political system is based on partisan and political plurality, that is actually in the national arena. This means that opposition abroad, whatever it may be, is against the country and its constitutional system, and indeed a national treason punishable by law. This is what applies to the opposition abroad, headed by what is called the MAWJ [Yemeni National Opposition Front], because anyone who wants to impose himself from abroad is a traitor and an agent. The YSP is now in the opposition. It was the party that plotted against the country and tried to undermine its unity and to destroy the homeland, and so it should not have been permitted to exist anew politically, because its secessionist leadership had publicly conspired against us and its present leadership did not even bother to condemn secession and (declare) its faith in the unity of the homeland. Yet the YSP is now practicing its political activity in complete freedom in the opposition.

[Makram] You have stated on more than one occasion that the Yemeni authorities have detained four fishing boats in Yemeni territorial waters belonging to neighboring countries. Can you shed more light on this question?

['Arab] Yes, four fishing boats were detained recently while fishing illegally in Yemeni territorial waters. Their crews are now under investigation. Three of these boats are Egyptian and the crew of the fourth are Egyptian. But the security authorities of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have informed us that it belongs to a Saudi fishing company.

[Makram] Has Yemen succeeded in concluding bilateral security agreement with neighboring countries...and what is the background to this matter?

['Arab] We have bilateral security agreements and plans for security agreements with many countries. We have put forward proposals in this regard to our brothers in Egypt and Saudi Arabia and the matter is still under discussion. We in Yemen care for the security of all countries, particularly those who are our neighbors, because Yemen's security is linked to the security of these countries and vice versa.

Following the successful visit by brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, horizons were opened for joint bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields including the field of security. We are in constant touch with our brothers in the Kingdom for the sake of resolving any security problems of interest to the two neighborly fraternal countries.

Official Relations To Be Established With Georgia

JN0509181595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our country and the Republic of Georgia agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level today. [passage omitted]

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Husayn Kamil Responds to Barzan al-Tikriti Remarks

JN0709121895 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 2 Sep 95 pp 1, 21

[FBIS Translated Text] "Exclusive" report from Amman — Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan has said that Barzan al-Tikriti — former chief of the Iraqi regime's intelligence and its current representative to the UN European headquarters — proved that he has no morals when he claimed that he has not met 'Udayy Saddam Husayn for 14 years. Barzan ignored the fact that 'Udayy had stayed with him at his palace in Geneva when he killed his father's manservant Kamil Hanna Jajju. Barzan also forgot that 'Udayy Saddam had shot a guard at the regime's embassy in Geneva, wounding him seriously. 'Udayy even used a gun which he had received from Barzan himself. The competent authorities in Geneva asked 'Udayy to leave the country then.

In an exclusive statement to AL-JAZIRAH on Friday [1 September], Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil said: History is not a blank page on which liars and perverts can write whatever they want. The Iraqi people know very well that Barzan al-Tikriti often meets with 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, especially after 'Udayy married Barzan's daughter and the expansion of their joint trade and investment activities.

As for Barzan's claim that he has not met Gen. Husayn Kamil — according to his interview with AL-HAYAH newspaper — Gen. Husayn Kamil said: Barzan al-Tikriti is right about this because he failed to persuade me to accept his request to meet with me since I had forced him to return millions of dollars to the state's treasury. Barzan had come into the possession of these sums illegally through firms working in Iraq and through the "protection money" he imposed on Iraqi merchants. A time will come soon when Barzan al-Tikriti will confess to the Iraqi people about the crimes he committed against the citizens. Barzan is the one who devised the method of dissolving prisoners in a tub of concentrated sulfuric acid when he was chief of the intelligence service before he completely devoted himself to running the regime's terrorist networks abroad and managing the financial empire that belongs to him and to the head of the regime.

Concluding, Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil said: Barzan al-Tikriti could probably count how many times he met with 'Udayy or how many times I refused to meet him, but can he count the number of those who were executed or dissolved in concentrated sulfuric acid under his supervision? Does he forget that he used to take along his son, Muhammad, to watch the mass executions, even though his son was only 10 years old.

TV Cites Russian Official's Denial of Tank Deal

JN0609172295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The speaker on behalf of the Russian establishment Rosvooruzheniye announced that Baghdad has not sent any request to provide Iraq with 4,000 tanks, as it was announced by the defector Husayn Kamil.

The speaker Valeriy Pogrebenkov added there was no official request in this regard.

Earlier, Western sources in Amman reported from the defector Husayn Kamil that this request was provided if the embargo on Iraq was lifted.

Mr. Pogrebenkov also indicated there was no military or technological cooperation between Iraq and China.

Article Details Rising Power of 'Udayy

95LH0247A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Jul 95 pp 16-18

[Article by "the political editor": "Who Rules Iraq, Saddam or 'Udayy?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In March of last year, Saddam Husayn urgently summoned the Iraqi Army's senior Tikriti officers and asked them to conduct an operation, to take the pulse of the military leadership in a very important matter which he was keen to keep in total secrecy. It related to appointing his elder son, 'Udayy, to be defense minister. At the outset of the meeting, the Iraqi leader insisted on knowing the views of this military circle closest and most loyal to him. Naturally, no one dared to express anything but the most welcoming and enthusiastic reaction to this idea, for the well-founded reason that not only were all those present family members and related by tribe and regime, but because prior experience had taught them that the president sometimes resorted to democracy and candor to press them to show their cards, often with unpredictable results...it could be bloody.

Before the Tikriti team came back with the results of its military reconnaissance, Saddam Husayn again summoned a broader selection of senior officers, including a generous representation of clans and tribes also known for their loyalty to him. Of course, a familial and paternal atmosphere prevailed, permitting an exchange of views within a single family, and the asking of the main question: What did the guys think of giving 'Udayy the Defense Ministry? Given the prevailing atmosphere of

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trust and the stock of those present, all being above suspicion in their service to the regime and in defense of it, some of the officers proceeded rashly and candidly, to the point of telling him, "Mr. President, begging your pardon, 'Udayy is undoubtedly 'his father's son,' but he is still a youth, lacking in experience and military qualifications, especially as one must take into consideration the fact that the country is threatened by a plot, and the armed forces might be forced to take stands and adopt a military strategy requiring great experience on the part of the defense minister." Saddam concluded the meeting by thanking all of them for their fervor and concern for the best interests of the country and the army. The next day, an order was issued for the execution of those who had voiced reservations—they were all from the al-Dawri family—and 12 other officers resigned.

This event reflected, in the view of some, the detonation of a conflict with the al-Dawri family and represented the beginning of a rift in the Sunni clan base the regime rests upon. It was followed by purges that included the al-Jabburi and then the al-Dulaymi clans, but of course it did not reach the point of a total break between the clans and the regime. Of greatest importance to observers at the time was the swift and fascinating rise of Saddam Husayn's elder son, from the end of "Desert Storm." They judged that 'Udayy had now reached the final phase in consolidating his position, imposing his control, and preparing to succeeding his father, at last rendering him capable of rivaling the minister of defense, the president's cousin 'Ali Hasan al-Majid. It is sufficient to understand the dimensions of this operation to know that al-Majid was at the time seen as the very closest person to Saddam Husayn, a trusted man who knew how to return the favor of his cousin, the president, who had raised him up from being a sergeant in the army to being a general and minister of defense. It is a known fact that al-Majid virtually did the impossible to be worthy of the responsibilities accorded him since the days of the chemical attack on the Kurds of Halabjah. He got the title "'Ali al-Kimawi" [Ali Chemical] and was given the military administration of the 19th province when Kuwait was invaded.

The Father and the Two Sons

At that time, news of Saddam's quest to name his son 'Udayy defense minister coincided with information about the president's faith in his cousin being shaken to the degree of adopting reports saying that he knew that 'Ali Hasan al-Majid' knew of an assassination attempt on Saddam Husayn by an armed ambush in the suburbs of Baghdad, but those who know the secrets of the Presidential Palace had noticed changes in the regime's strategy for protecting itself, reflecting changes in the structure of the tight circle, which grew tighter and tighter, to clear the way for the control of the very, very immediate family: the father, the son, the son, and the son-in-law before the brother or half-brother or cousins. Then came the historical friends, and of course everyone understood they were merely pawns in the game Saddam Husayn was playing, deciding by himself who would win and who would lose, who would move ahead and who would be left behind; that is, with the exception of 'Udayy and Qusayy, who were given "a blank check" to prepare a strategy for protecting the regime and fortifying it in its confrontation with the international embargo and holding out against the internal security, military, social, and economic repercussions threatening the government. While Qusayy took over presidential security and the Special Guard and began to work stealthily to build a security network linked to control over all the agencies, 'Udayy took upon himself the task of preparing a new strategy imposed by post-Gulf War conditions in close coordination with his father, who never refused any request he made; indeed he was keen to show him off as "crown prince," seeing in him the true cub offspring of the lion father, as he repeated to his close friends. Within months these confidants discovered for themselves that Saddam Husayn was proceeding to build a structure like that of Kim Il-Sung and his son Kim Jong-Il. There is no doubt that the North Korean experts resident in Baghdad played a role in implementing this strategy, which opened all doors to 'Udayy and led to Saddam adopting the role of "spiritual father" and "commander of the faithful" and "sixth caliph." At this time, 'Udayy began his upward course, gradually assuming all the reins of power and control over the country's capabilities, in his father's name, so that he was looked upon as if he were a ruler. This moved some of those who lost their positions to wonder: Who is ruling Iraq, Saddam or 'Udayy? Despite their knowledge that the authority of this young man in his thirties—who used to spend his time driving fast sports cars, Porsches or Ferraris—and his power was drawn from the authority of the president and the power and the authority the president granted to his son, they were surprised by the volume and the role given 'Udayy, especially as Saddam appeared as a "shrine" of policy and somewhat of a monk, who was reducing his appearances while 'Udayy visibly occupied the center of events and decisions.

With dazzling speed, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn moved from being president of the Olympic Committee to decision maker and "acting" authority for his father. He began to gain control over all sectors of life in Iraq: economic, political, social, security, the media, and the military. Every sector, institution, or society that fell into 'Udayy's control was transformed to serve Saddam Husayn, directly and completely. It can be said that

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'Udayy Saddam Husayn himself began to represent an Iraqi Government in near entirety.

'Udayy: A Government Unto Himself

'Udayy became minister of culture and information. During the sanctions and austerity, he found the necessary money and paper to publish the daily newspaper BABIL [BABYLON], in addition to the sports paper AL-BA'TH AL-RIYADI [BA'TH SPORTS], and established Shabab [Youth] Television and Radio. 'Udayy succeeded in making his media institutions a successful image of the new-old Iraqi media.

The youth were drawn by pirated music and films, broadcast with the aim of using them to mobilize the youth to stand by the regime, with propagandistic video clips on their TV's, the music accompanied by pictures of Saddam Husayn in all sorts of clothes, uniforms, and hats, or showing views of presidential visits to Iraqi families, shaking hands with old men, or kissing children. BABIL became a thermometer to measure how satisfactory this or that minister was. A criticism of any official in the newspaper was enough to lead to his resignation the following day. That became very clear in the summer of [year illegible] when Saddam Husayn dismissed the government of al-Khudayr after BABIL withdrew its support for it. Along with that, 'Udayy undertook the task of putting up statues and murals of his father all over the place. On the cultural and social level, 'Udayy established the Iraqi Cultural Grouping, which included 13 organizations, federations, and charitable societies in such a way as to place all writers, performers, artists, and athletes, and by extension all their activities, under 'Udayy's personal supervision, and all their movements under surveillance in aid of "Mother of Battles literature." Otherwise their fate is the Olympic Committee prisons or the discipline camps in al-Radwaniyah.

While fortifying the propaganda, media, culture, social, and sports front and placing it under 'Udayy's exclusive control, the president's eldest son also holds the levers to the domestic economy in Iraq to become minister of economy and finance.

The whole embargo economy is being put in 'Udayy's hands. He has monopolized most import operations, from cigarettes to whiskey and all basic and luxury foodstuffs and spare parts. He has imposed extortion on other merchants while taking total control of the embargo market and black market, sometimes to win them over and sometimes to terrorize them, and has gone so far as to arrest and execute dozens of merchants and money changers on the pretext that they violated the law. He also controls the Iraqi national lottery.

'Udayy has broadened his import-export activities by amassing the largest number of agencies and setting up companies with Jordanian, Turkish, and Iranian partners, most prominently his companies with the son, or more properly the sons, of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Mehdi and Yasir, who work with 'Udayy to penetrate the embargo in return for the import of Iraqi cement, dates, skins, and oil—over which 'Udayy exercises an export monopoly for all outlets. 'Udayy's hard currency income from this business alone is estimated at more than half a million dollars per day.

Money is "the sinew of war," especially when the embargo is in effect. When the Iraqis are in greater need of ration cards and the government's generosity makes it easy for anyone in control of the economic situation to gain control over the social and political situation—especially when it is the president's favorite son—the loyalties of political and media officials in all strata of society begin and they proclaim their "obedience" to 'Udayy, who succeeded in purging the Ba'th Party of anyone who grumbled, even silently. His turn also came to gain control of security. In addition to the Youth Security Agency, which 'Udayy built up in the framework of the Olympic Committee and the Cultural Grouping, he set out to build the "Saddam Husayn Fedayeen Corps," not merely as an alternative to the Popular Army, but as a grouping of the cream of Iraqi youth in commando units to defend the regime; they trained very rigorously. 'Udayy was quickly able to recruit tens of thousands of youths, some still students, some "donated" by the school principals, while others volunteered as a result of inducements which excused them from school exams when they joined the Saddam Fedayeen Corps, which became a powerful force feared by the other security agencies, especially after they quelled the incidents in Al-Ramadi and Abu-Ghurayb.

In the plans to control all the crucial points and sectors with his father's blessing, 'Udayy did not hesitate to confront the family and historical circle which surrounded the regime and which the regime surrounded. He clashed with his uncle, Watban, the interior minister, and succeeded in banishing him more than a month ago to bring in an interior minister close to him who does his will. After that 'Udayy completed his control over the Ministry of Petroleum with his assistance in banishing the minister, Jawad al-Habubi, replacing him with a minister closer to 'Udayy: Major General 'Amir Rashid.

After totally dominating the domestic scene, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn moved on to consolidate his position in Iraqi foreign policy by taking over dealings with the international sanctions. Everyone recalls his long campaign against Tariq 'Aziz and the accusations he

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made against him in BABIL and in the Command meetings. They led to 'Aziz's temporary banishment, but he was back before 'Udayy's participation and role in Iraqi foreign policy, in accordance with his father's wishes, of course.

Very few observers know that 'Udayy, who has no ministerial job, has for some months enjoyed the right to attend cabinet sessions. His father has granted him an honorary military rank which many see as preparatory to the military role being readied for him. The fact is that after 'Udayy's success in amassing economic, athletic, artistic, media, literary, financial, oil, and (in cooperation with Qusayy) security activities in his own grasp, and his role in foreign policy, 'Udayy lacks only supremacy over the military establishment; the regular army, especially after his success with the Saddam Fedayeen Corps experiment. His most recent "battle" led to the resignation of Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid. This promotion was so awaited by all Iraqis that no one doubted, when al-Majid's resignation was announced, that the alternative would be anyone but 'Udayy, in view of the logical sequence of 'Udayy's rise and his preparation for future missions. Here the truth about changing the defense minister lies hidden. Everything being said about al-Majid's elimination being his "punishment" for the army's involvement in the events in al-Ramadi and Saddam Husayn's keenness to appoint a professional defense minister who can maintain the cohesion of the military establishment and handle the satisfaction of grumbling military men, is only a small part of the truth of Saddam Husayn's intentions. The Iraqi military establishment, despite whatever convulsions it undergoes and whatever grumbling it is said goes on in the ranks of senior clan officers, is still above suspicion and is loyal to Saddam Husayn, who has liberally bestowed prerogatives upon it. He knows how to maintain balance in it as well as how to manipulate family factors without any threat to the government, which he keeps entirely in his hands, so that all of them would be threatened and go down with him, should he go down.

Transitional Point for the Succession

The fact is that the process of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid's resignation does not reflect the existence of any dangerous family disputes or any ominous restlessness inside the military establishment. All there is to it is that Saddam Husayn, who has never for one day relinquished his plan for preparing 'Udayy to succeed him, which provides for his taking on the Defense Ministry to control the military establishment, the last shield for the defense of the regime, found this time to be the right opportunity to take a new step toward that goal by appointing Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad. Saddam Husayn played a clever game by keeping this professional soldier as a transitional point, preparing and "clearing" the way for 'Udayy. Those familiar with Saddam Husayn's method of rule recall that what he recently did with the Defense Ministry is exactly like what happened after the killing of former Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah. At that time, Saddam appointed a professional soldier to please and reassure the military; that was 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal. After a short transitional period, Saddam's son-in-law, Husayn Kamil, took over the Ministry of Defense. The same thing happened again with Sultan Hashim Ahmad. Saddam did not want to go directly from his cousin to his son, so he chose a temporary minister liked by the military establishment. At the same time, he is a friend of both Saddam and 'Udayy, whose loyalty is unquestioned. There was, in the recent switch in the Defense Ministry, more than one message being sent domestically and abroad. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid knew he was a bloody man who launched a fierce war against the Kurds in Halabjah. After the invasion of Kuwait, Saddam Husayn named him governor of the "19th Province," then gave him the job of quelling the uprising of the Shiites that followed the Gulf War in the south. By eliminating al-Majid, Saddam Husayn was trying to soften his image and ease the hatred of the Kurds and Shiites by laying the blame on the former defense minister. In this way he seeks to pacify the Shiites and Kurds with a policy of normalizing relations with Iran and secret negotiations with the Kurds. At the same time, he is trying to ease the restlessness inside the military establishment, which had not been able to stand handing over the Ministry of Defense to a sergeant in the army, and he offered a sort of "apology" to the military for their involvement in the events at al-Ramadi by punishing those responsible for what happened. Some observers see, in the appointment of Sultan Hashim, a message from Saddam to the outside world, with the military man taking over the Ministry of Defense knowing more than he knew, that he represents the negotiating face rather than the fighting face of the Iraqi Army. He was the chief of the Iraqi delegation at the Safwan negotiations which led to Iraq's surrender in the Gulf War. Observers link this appointment and the release of the two American prisoners, finding in it a positive message aimed at Washington.

The most important factor remains in the fact that the new defense minister's mission is temporary, and his role is limited to placating the military establishment, clearing the air, and clearing the way for the awaited one, 'Udayy. In addition to the fact that the new defense minister is a friend of 'Udayy and not a man with political ambitions, it has been noticed that the son of the Iraqi president has begun, or more properly has com-

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pleted, the enrichment and satisfaction of an important wing of the military establishment: retired officers and enlisted men. More than a year ago, Saddam Husayn had begun to prepare for that when he called upon retired officers and men to cooperate with the Olympic Committee. 'Udayy hosted them and offered them financial aid and material inducements. Within a few weeks, 'Udayy announced the establishment of the "Society of the Friends of the President," with membership limited to those who had obtained two decorations in the second Gulf War; that is, the active and retired soldiers who joined the Friends of the President in the tens of thousands. Then 'Udayy made another step on the road to tempting the military and enriching them when he founded the "Union of Saddamites," open to the holders of 10 different decorations for valor, and more. Of course 'Udayy heads this Union, and it is headquartered in the Olympic Committee. This Union, with the Society of the Friends of the President, constitutes an important part of 'Udayy's strategy to win over the military. The Union grants its members stipends, salaries, and plots of land for building homes and other plots of land for agriculture. It gives its members preferences in official dealings and entry into government offices and ministries without question, and rights to join in official open auctions. Their children are accepted into schools, institutes, and universities. They have preference in government appointments and in meeting Saddam Husayn. Of course, most of them are senior officers and military men.

While 'Udayy's noble deeds for the military establishment and the families of soldiers and officers are part of a plan to enrich the army, it has been noted that the Military Industrialization Commission run by Husayn Kamil, 'Udayy's relative and partner, has begun to carefully highlight the important role 'Udayy plays in it. The Commission revealed last week that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn was supervising the repair of military equipment, tanks, and artillery, and all military materiel damaged during both Gulf wars. Information confirms that 'Udayy has for some time been giving priority in commerce, penetrating the embargo and importing military spare parts, to reaffirm his importance to the military establishment. Qusayy Saddam Husayn has ended his total control over army intelligence to put it under the control of his brother, in accordance with his father's wishes.

Thus the Iraqi military establishment is now under 'Udayy's wing, to consolidate his power. Those who know Saddam Husayn's plans confirm that the president is preparing to transfer the Defense Ministry to his son soon and that it will be the final phase in the process of 'Udayy's fulfillment of the conditions permitting all sectors of the people and state institutions to proclaim their loyalty to him as the successor to his father without any reservations, in mass "democratic" style.

Anti-PKK Demonstrations Reported in Dohuk

TA0109174595 London Kanal-6 Television in Turkish 1600 GMT 1 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] The people of north Iraq have also rebelled against PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] massacres. Demonstrations were held in Dohuk to protest and condemn the PKK following the attacks against [Kurdish Democratic Party leader] Barzani's forces. The demonstrators pledged to avenge the attack in which 12 people were killed and 55 wounded, and described the PKK as the enemy of the Kurds.

Slogans denouncing the PKK are now being voiced in north Iraq. People protested against the PKK, which had attacked Barzani supporters and killed 12 peshmergas, including five women and two children, in the northern Iraqi town of Dohuk. Speeches delivered at the demonstration noted that the PKK has revealed its true face and described the organization as the enemy of the Kurds. It was stressed that the attack will be avenged sooner or later and that Turkish soldiers had entered north Iraq because of the attack.

Meanwhile, 55 persons wounded in the PKK attack are being treated in various hospitals in north Iraq. The wounded remarked that they were subjected to inhumane treatment by the PKK in the region.

ANATOLIA Reports PKK-KDP Fighting in North

TA0209120995 Nicosia Bayrak Radio in Turkish 1030 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] While sporadic fighting continues in northern Iraq between the Iraqi Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] peshmergas and PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] terrorists, it is reported that 12 terrorists were killed last night. ANATOLIA reports that the clashes ended in the peshmergas' taking control of the Kani Mazi region and that the peshmerga units are being reinforced in other regions where fighting is taking place.

KDP Reportedly Shells PUK Village

NC0209155495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] artillery bombarded the village of (al-Karash) in the Irbil Governorate at 2130 yesterday. The KDP forces

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used 120-mm mortar fire in their 30-minute barrage. In compliance with a cease-fire agreement, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan peshmerga did not return fire. The barrage caused some fires but no casualties.

Kurdish Peshmerga Chase Away PKK 'Terrorists'

JN0409082095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past few days and within the framework of retaliating against a cowardly and unjustified attack by Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] terrorists on innocent civilians and administrative and party offices in Iraqi Kurdistan, the heroic Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] peshmerga — the homeland's loyal protectors of the people and of the Kurdish nation's achievements — supported by angry masses in the region carried out a heroic hard- to-match attack in order to teach the terrorists a lesson and to purge the area from them. In a swift attack, these peshmerga chased away PKK terrorists from border areas.

According to the latest available information, on the morning of 3 September, the heroic Barzan army corps and the 2d Army Corps began a purging operation that began in areas under the control of terrorists in the upper [al-Nuzur] area. Within two hours, the terrorists ran away to the laps of their hireling leaders and their defeated remnants were seen fleeing. Moreover, control was taken over more than 15 weapons, ammunition, and foodstuff warehouses for the terrorists after they left them behind and ran away from the peshmerga's blows. Moreover, the terrorists left behind the bodies of 33 people killed in the mountains and valleys of the area. The arrogant Ocalan is responsible for the crime of killing them, deceiving them, and involving them in an oppressive war against the people of Iraqi Kurdistan, and leading them to death.

It remains to be said that another number of those deceived armed men surrendered to the peshmerga of Kurdistan and were transferred to rear positions where they were welcomed and respected. Those deceived ones cannot defend their acts and behavior and with the approach of the KDP vanguards, they fled in defeat.

Moreover, our party issued an urgent appeal to the deceived PKK armed men, warning them that they only have two alternatives; either to surrender to the masses, to the peshmerga, and to responsible quarters in the region's government or to face their inevitable fate, that is, violent death in the battle front.

More PKK-KDP Fighting in North Reported

TA0409091795 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2110 GMT 3 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Clashes between Iraqi Kurdish Democratic Party [KDP] peshmergas and PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] terrorists are continuing in northern Iraq. PKK terrorists launched an attack on a police station belonging to the peshmergas yesterday evening.

According to ANATOLIA, three PKK terrorists were killed and eight KDP peshmergas wounded in the ensuing clashes. It was reported that mortars, rockets, and machine guns were used during the fighting, which lasted for three hours.

It was also reported that PKK terrorists had launched an attack in (Darkaraja) on the slopes of Shiranis Mountains last night. Nobody was killed or wounded in the clashes.

Meanwhile, the KDP accused Iran and Syria of supporting the PKK terrorist organization.

KDP Appeals to PKK Fighters To Surrender

JN0409181995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] has issued an appeal to the supporters and armed men of the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] calling on them to surrender to the nearest authority in the region or to the KDP or peshmerga headquarters, asserting that their life and dignity will be guaranteed and that they will be escorted to wherever they want.

The KDP appeal to the PKK guerrillas says: Now you see how Ocalan and the PKK leadership have implicated you in a hostile and unjust war against the Iraqi Kurdistan establishments, the KDP offices, and the masses. You know very well that the Iraqi Kurdistan masses and the KDP supporters have never offended you. On the contrary, they welcomed you and treated you kindly for many years. However, the ungrateful PKK leadership has forced you to fight against the people of Iraqi Kurdistan and the legitimate institutions. The PKK leadership, preoccupied with drug trafficking, has thrown you into the furnace of this unjust war at the instigation of the well-known enemies of the Kurdish nation. You also note that Ocalan in particular, and the PKK leadership in general, are against the Ireland agreement on peace in Kurdistan. They want internecine fighting to continue, and this is strange.

The PKK leadership has unlawfully violated Iraqi Kurdistan while everyone knows that its original arena of

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activity is Turkish Kurdistan. The PKK has no right to undertake armed activities in the Iraqi Kurdistan region. It is high treason to aim weapons at the legitimate Kurdish administration in the region, the KDP, and the poor masses of peasants in towns and villages in Bahdinan.

The KDP appeal to the PKK supporters and armed men in Iraqi Kurdistan went on to say: As a result of this armed aggression, the PKK leadership has been isolated in the Kurdistan arena. No political power or any Kurdistan party supported its treacherous position. On the contrary, the Kurdistan parties and factions throughout Kurdistan opposed the PKK leadership, denounced its hostile position toward the Ireland peace agreement, and objected to its military attack. We are presenting you with these facts because the PKK leadership has placed you in a wrong political and intellectual position that conflicts with the nation's basic interests, as well with your own interests. Your leadership has involved you in a fierce war from which it will be difficult to escape, especially since the popular masses, led by the peasants, have risen against the PKK and are now defending their rights and interests. They no longer back you as they did 10 years ago. Today, you are facing the resistance of the people, whose interests and ambitions to secure a stable life and to return to their villages and farms, have been sold out by the PKK.

Concluding, the KDP appeal to the PKK armed men said: It will be difficult for you to escape the woes of this war, which was launched by the PKK leaders. The KDP will try to keep losses to a minimum. Therefore, it sincerely calls on you today to lay down your arms and surrender to the nearest department in the region, or to the nearest party or peshmerga headquarters. We promise to guarantee your safety and life, preserve your dignity, and safely escort you to wherever you want. Therefore, do not seek your own destruction for the sake of achieving the PKK leadership's illegitimate goals. Hasten to contact the nearest administrative or party center.

KDP Launches Military Operation Against PKK

NC0409094995 Paris AFP in English 0909 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, Sept 4 (AFP) — A major northern Iraqi Kurdish group has killed 33 Turkish separatist Kurds in raids aimed at mopping up the area before winter sets in, the group's spokesman said Monday [4 September].

Raids launched on the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) positions over the last 36 hours left 33 militants dead, said Safin Diyzai of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP].

He told AFP that another 17 PKK fighters were captured along with weapons, supplies and ammunition left behind in two large depots after a heavy raid early Sunday.

"Now, the mop-up operation is in full swing and we will continue. The region has been split up into several operation fields,"he said.

Diyzai said KDP forces were now concentrating on the Mirga Sur and Shirwani regions, both of which were the target of Turkish raids in July.

"We hope to lessen the PKK threat — they can't be eradicated — before November."

Diyzai said remaining PKK fighters in the area, believed to number less than 1,000, may have fled into nearby mountains or across into Turkey. He said KDP forces were controlling surrounding routes.

Another 1,000 militants are still believed to be in other parts of KDP-held territory in northern Iraq.

The PKK began attacking KDP bases about 10 days ago and some 60 fighters were killed on both sides, with scores more civilians wounded.

The separatist group is believed to be trying to undermine an agreement between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan which would restrict its own activity in the area.

It has been using northern Iraq as a springboard from which to fight Turkish troops in southeastern Turkey.

In July, Turkey sent about 3,OOO troops into northern Iraq, its second raid against the PKK since a heavier one there in March.

Turkish and KDP officials met recently, but no military cooperation plan has been worked out so far, Diyzai said.

Barzani Peshmerga Kill 40, Arrest 17 PKK Fighters

JN0409200495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1825 GMT 4 Sep 95

[All Kurdish place names as heard]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the latest reports on the brave attack launched by the heroic Barzan Army Corps and the militant 2d Army Corps, supported by the masses in the area, to chase away the terrorists of the Kurdish Workers Party, PKK, in the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan, the Barzan Army Corps and the 2d Army Corps were able — in fighting that lasted eight hours on 2 September — to destroy the terrorist force and purge the Butan Mountains, Teleto, and the areas which are located behind the villages of Sendarit, Izo,

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Dakelo, Meleno, [placename indistinct], Balala, Kuran, Benabatiya, Merod Butto, and Bordian. These places were completely purged from the traitors of the nation.

According to the latest reports also, the PKK forces left behind 40 bodies in front of the peshmerga positions, including the body of the PKK force commander, who was called Shahin. Also, 17 PKK armed men were captured and evacuated to the rear positions with all respect.

Thus, the PKK presence and bases have been completely destroyed and the upper al-Nuzur areas were purged from the dens of treason and agentry.

The heroes of the Barzan Army Corps and the 2d Army Corps were able to capture seven [model name indistinct] rifles, three RPG launchers, and 35 kalashnikov rifles, and all the ammunition and food supplies which were stored at their bases, in addition to a radio which was used by the commander of their force, who was killed.

This area was one of the most important positions used by the PKK as command posts and depots for weapons and equipment used in its terrorist operations. The PKK also prevented the citizens of these villages from benefiting from the land and water in that area.

Car Bomb in Irbil Kills 1; PKK Suspected

NC0609165995 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah-al-Din, Iraq, Sept 6 (AFP) — A car-bomb attack killed at least one person and injured several others in the main town of Kurdish-held northern Iraq on Wednesday [6 September], Kurdish officials said.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said the bomb, made up of 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of TNT, exploded outside one of its offices in the centre of Irbil, a town under its control.

Its rival, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, joined in condemnation of the attack. There was no claim of responsibility.

Several residents of the town blamed the Turkish Kurd separatist PKK, which since late August has launched attacks on the KDP in areas on the border with Turkey.

The PKK, or Kurdistan Workers' Party, has offices in Irbil where it publishes a weekly newspaper called WELAT. The group opposes a U.S. and Turkish-backed truce between the KDP and PUK.

The two groups have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since 1991, but their clashes since May 1994 over power and tax revenues have cost more than 2,000 lives.

PUK leader Jalal Talabani announced on Wednesday that he and Mas'ud Barzani, the KDP chief, had been invited to Washington for talks with U.S. officials on September 25.

KDP Condemns Explosion

JN0609191795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official spokesman for our party, the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], has stated the following:

Terrorist and evil quarters, the enemies of peace, carried out a huge explosion in the (words indistinct] belonging to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Irbil at 0715 [0315 GMT] on 6 September.

Preliminary reports we received mention that three were killed and five others were wounded in the explosion.

While we condemn this terrorist act, we emphasize that such actions are carried out by saboteurs and the enemies of peace at this crucial time.

Barzani Radio Says 'Purge' Operation Complete

JN0609200995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Sep 95

[All place names as heard]

[FBIS Translated Text] The heroes of the 2d Army Corps and the Barzan Army Corps have purged the upper al-Nuzur area from the PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] terrorists in a heroic offensive that lasted a few hours on 3 September. After this, they pursued their remnants to Awakim, killing more than 40 terrorists. The bodies of 33 others were left behind in the battlefield. Our forces captured 17 others and pursued the other remnants to the Rekan heights.

The terrorists did not halt their attacks. They carried out sabotage operations in the areas near Teledo, Kheres, Jitrif, Balenda, Dirabak, and Dibaja in the Al-'Amadiyah area. They launched several futile attacks which utterly failed, and they were unable to confront the peshmerga blows. They ran away, leaving their dead behind. Many other terrorists who ran away from the battlefield were ambushed by the heroic peshmerga of our party who taught them many other lessons. Many were killed and others were taken prisoner.

The party and Barzani heroes, supported by the steadfast masses in upper al-Nuzur area completed the second phase of the purging operation to liberate the villages

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on the other side of Anikin and the area located between upper al-Nuzur and Rekan. The purging operation began at 0800 on 6 September. The terrorists were unable to confront our hero peshmerga and ran away. The Kozi, Sinya, and Qalatoki villages were liberated from the filth of the terrorists. The peshmerga and the masses captured several terrorist positions and fulfilled the objective the second phase sought to achieve. The sons of the party and Barzani crossed Ayakin before 1300 of the same day advancing toward the Rekan border area.

The terrorists sustained heavy losses. Thanks be to God, the party and Barzani forces sustained no losses in this epic. Victory was their lot.

Radio Says PKK Training in Patriotic Union Areas

JN0609195595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah—An informed source said a group of armed men from the PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] has been carrying out military training near the village of (Fetex) for almost a week. The training is taking place at a training camp they set in the area.

The source added the armed men are training on various weapons and fighting methods. The area is controlled by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Barzani Comments on Invitation to Talks in U.S.

NC0609171895 Paris AFP in English 1442 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Sept 6 (AFP) — Rival Iraqi Kurd leaders Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani have been invited to Washington this month for talks with U.S. officials, Talabani said Wednesday [6 September].

"I am invited, along with Mr. Barzani, by Washington to discuss the latest developments in Iraq with American officials on September 25," the head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said.

He said U.S. officials had also asked his party and the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), headed by Barzani, to meet in Dublin on Tuesday for follow-up talks on an August 11 accord the two sides signed in Drogheda, Ireland.

"We hope the two meetings will take place," said Talabani, who was on a visit to Syria. There was no immediate word on whether Barzani would accept the invitations.

The Drogheda accord, sponsored by the United States, brought a truce between the PUK and the KDP who have been locked in a bloody conflict over power and tax revenue in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq since May 1994.

The follow-up talks will focus on the demilitarisation of the main northern Iraqi town of Irbil, held by the PUK, and the reactivation of the Kurdish administration which has been paralysed by the fighting, Talabani said.

The KDP has accused Syria and Iran of trying to wreck the truce by backing Turkish Kurd separatist attacks inside northern Iraq.

But Talabani condemned the accusation as "unfair."

"On the contrary, Syria encourages the two groups to settle their differences and works for the stability of the region," the PUK leader said.

"What we have heard from our Syrian brothers encourages understanding between the two parties and the accusation against Syria is unfair," he said, following talks with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam here.

Talabani said he would meet Iraqi opposition members based in Damascus as well as Syrian officials during his visit to "exchange ideas on the situation in Iraq and the Middle East."

He added he had not decided whether to accept an invitation to meet Iraq's former industry minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan, who defected to Amman on August 8 and called for the downfall of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The PUK and the KDP are the two main Kurdish groups controlling northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War.

Kurds Accuse Iran, Syria of Backing PKK To Ruin Truce

NC0309075695 Paris AFP in English 2307 GMT 2 Sep 95

[By Tolle Aram]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah-al-Din, Iraq, Sept 3 (AFP) — Iran and Syria are backing Turkish Kurd separatists who have raided villages in northern Iraq and killed at least seven civilians, Iraqi Kurdish officials charged.

Guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) have attacked at least 25 Iraqi Kurd villages on the Turkey-Iraq border since August 24, officials from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) told AFP.

"The PKK is supported by Iran and Syria. We have confirmation that Iran allowed more than 300 PKK fighters to come through Iran into the area controlled

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by us," said Bruska Shaways, a member of the KDP leadership.

He charged the two countries were trying to stir up trouble between the KDP and its rival the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) who signed a U.S.-brokered truce in August to end a bitter power struggle which erupted in May 1994.

Neither Iran nor Syria want peace between the Kurds, he said. "They especially don't want a peace under the auspices of America because that would strengthen its rule in this area."

The accord signed in Ireland is seen as a first step toward a fragile peace in the region, controlled by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad since 1991 with the backing of a U.S.-led coalition.

The inter-Kurd conflict, which has left more than 2,000 dead, has seen the region cut in half. All the main PKK bases are in the eastern region under PUK control.

"Without the agreement of the PUK, the PKK fighters could not have crossed their territory," KDP spokesman Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman said.

It is the Iraqi Kurd villagers who are caught in the middle, and have seen PKK fighters whom they helped in the past turn on them. Some villages have now set up nightly patrols.

"They came at midnight. They killed one man and took my brother as a hostage. He had always been friendly with them when they had come to the village before asking for food," said Basma Musa, 35, from Tshauma.

Apart from the seven civilians, 15 KDP fighters and 40 PKK militiamen have also been killed in the attacks and another 35 civilians injured, according to KDP figures.

But the PUK has yet to denounce the violence, and accused the KDP of seeking military backing from Turkey fighting an 11-year battle against the PKK which wants to set up an independent Kurdish homeland in southeastern Anatolia.

Foreign ministers from Turkey, Syria and Iran are due to hold a meeting on September 7.

"Our delegate in Ankara will ask Turkey to press Syria and Iran to stop their support for the PKK," Shaways said.

In its weekly paper WELAT, the PKK said they were attacking the KDP because it refused to join the fight for "a greater Kurdistan." And it added the party had to be wiped out because it was backing Turkey's bid to crush PKK rebels.

Ankara has twice this year launched a huge military offensive against PKK camps in northern Iraq, which is used as a rear base by the guerrillas.

And although it criticized the incursions, the KDP has agreed to help Turkey patrol the border to halt PKK cross-border attacks launched from inside northern Iraq.

"In the spring we were persecuted by the Turks for helping the PKK. Now the PKK is making trouble, isn't it absurd?" asked a young mechanic from a border village.

Pro-Regime KDP Urges Kurds To Resist 'Traitors'

JN0609194295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—The Political Bureau of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] has appealed to the sons of the Kurdish people in Kurdistan Autonomous Region to resist the hireling agents and traitors in the region.

In a statement today, a spokesman for the KDP Political Bureau stressed the need to close ranks to eliminate the abnormal situation in Iraqi Kurdistan, to return to the arms of the homeland, and to protect the people's historic achievements which were made under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The spokesman expressed his deep concern over the Turkish troop movements and concentrations near Iraq's international border, which are aimed at carrying out a new invasion of our national territory and violating our sovereignty on the pretext of the presence of the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK]. He said that the Turkish aggressions against Iraqi territory conflict with the simplest rules of the UN Charter and international law, and the principles of good neighborliness.

The spokesman strongly denounced the Turkish military operations in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, and considered them a serious precedent in international relations.

The spokesman held the PKK partly responsible for the Turkish aggressions against our territory, because it has given a pretext to Turkey to continue its crimes against lofty Iraq's unity and sovereignty under these difficult circumstances and at a time when our people are being exposed to the fiercest imperialist-Zionist plan.

Party Military Bureau Elects New Command

JN0609183195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Military Bureau has held its congress to elect new

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Military Bureau members. Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, chaired the congress.

Comrade 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy secretary of the Iraq Command, and Comrade Samir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Najm, member of the Iraq Command and deputy secretary of the Military Bureau, attended the meeting. The congress also included the old Military Bureau members, and members of branch and military commands.

The leader, may God preserve him, addressed the congress' session. He spoke about the military comrades' role in entrenching the principled values and sound behavior in serving the people and the Armed Forces. He called on them to elect a new military bureau contrary to the traditional procedure of appointing the Military Bureau members.

The comrade leader, may God protect him, said: The election process will not be an absolute alternative to appointment due to the peculiarity of organizations in the Armed Forces. However, it is an experience through which we want to test the comrades' awareness, instead of using the process of appointments. It is a process which takes place for the first time in the history of the party on the level of electing the Military Bureau.

The comrade leader, may God watch over him, praised the efforts of the Military Bureau members who commanded the party organizations in the Armed Forces before the elections.

The secret balloting then took place to elect a new Military Bureau Command. A number of comrades won in accordance with the new democratic formula.

Concluding, his excellency wished the elected command success in performing its new tasks, beseeching God to preserve them all and to lead them on the right path in the interest of our people and glorious nation.

BABIL Urges 'Mending Fences' Between Arabs

JN0709085995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0710 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA) — The newspaper BABIL urges comprehensive Arab reconciliation that ends the manifestations of fragmentation and disunity among the sons of the one nation.

In its editorial today, BABIL says it is high time the Arabs ended their differences, since this serves the interests of the Arab states and the Arab nation as a whole. Reestablishing pan-Arab accord is a pressing need for all Arabs, especially under the current circumstances.

The paper recalls a time when there was understanding and accord between the Arab brothers and how this reflected on the international stand toward pan-Arab issues. During that time, international quarters, including the parties to the Cold War, used to pay attention to Arab rights to independence, freedom, and development.

BABIL also recalls the negative consequences as a result of Arab disunity and differences. Many things were lost when Arab unity was disrupted and when selfishness replaced common Arab interests. The paper warns against depending on foreign parties to secure any narrow personal or regional interests. Material and other forms of support from outside the nation cannot replace the support which comes from inside the nation and its resources.

The paper says there are ways to restore accord between the Arabs. Mending fences is not impossible. To heal the rift, the trading of accusations and war of words must stop; no party should act as a custodian of another party; and everybody must adhere to consultations and dialogue that would serve the general good.

Paper Calls For Building 'New Arab Relations'

JN0709091295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0610 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA) — The AL-THAWRAH newspaper asserts that building bridges for mutual trust is the first step to put the Arab house in order, spread a climate of relaxation, and remove grudges, tension, skepticism, and fear that have characterized Arab relations.

In an article today, the newspaper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: Clearing the Arab air and establishing new Arab relations is a noble objective which Iraq has enthusiastically and honestly called for. This will serve the interests of the Arab nation, bolster its steadfastness, and ward off dangers.

The paper adds: Iraq has said loud that it is willing to build new relations with all Arab countries. This shows Iraq's firm and absolute adherence to its pan-Arab approach to enhance and strengthen Arab solidarity and achieve security and stability in all Arab countries.

The paper says: This Iraqi appeal is not meant for domestic consumption. Iraq is also not afflicted with any complex, in spite of everything that happened to it. This is because the Arabs should hold no grudges against each other. The appeal for an Arab meeting is meant to thwart the schemes of all hostile powers that are lying in wait for the Arab nation. These powers wager on fragmenting the Arab nation and dragging it toward very dangerous pitfalls. These hostile powers are trying to spread despair, practice a policy of blackmail, fabricate problems, escalate minor differences, and create tension

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between brothers. This way, these powers will continue to thrive on the weakness of the Arabs and will continue to disunite the Arabs.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The economic erosion, policy of marginalization, continued depletion of Arab resources, and use of Arab land to threaten pan-Arab security are all the logical outcome of the absence of Arab solidarity and common action. These manifestations are also the result of a Washington-led fierce onslaught to control the region.

The paper says: Imperialist plotting against the Arab nation has disrupted the balance and made the Arabs lose a great deal of the sources of their strength. This situation calls for a review to ask about the price of the blockade and the result of estrangement between brothers.

The paper concludes: The absence of Arab solidarity, even if it is in the minimum level, has stimulated the appetite of Washington and its allies, as if this region were an inheritance to be divided and distributed.

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Rabin on Talks With Palestinians, Syria

TA0609205095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Sep 95

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Nisim Mish'al on the weekly "Conference Call" program in the studio on 6 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, you said that terror will not stop, but you are going to sign another agreement in Washington at the end of this month.

[Rabin] We hope so.

[Mish'al] You consciously say that even if there is another agreement terror will not stop. What is the logic of withdrawing now from six cities and 420 villages from which suicide terrorists might set out? What is the logic of this move?

[Rabin] I will explain it to you. A statesman — and I hope I am one — must first of all see where he is going. I am going toward a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, based on the position of the Labor Party which is opposed to the notion of Greater Israel.

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, we are talking about terror and not about Greater Israel.

[Rabin] Greater Israel means a binational state of over 3 million Palestinians and 4.5 or 5 million Jews. In their dreams and prayers about returning to Zion, generations of Jews over the last 2,000 years did not dream of a binational state but about a Jewish one that does not spread over the entire territory of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, that was not my question. What is the logic of withdrawing from cities and villages when you know that terror might continue to strike at us from there?

[Rabin] First of all, I want to know the kind of solution I am going for and to know if there are obstacles and pains along the way. I want to reach peace with the Palestinians as an entity living beside us, not within the pre-Six-Day-War borders. To that end, I am prepared to take risks because I see a solution in front of me in the distant future. In my opinion, this solution will lead to the settlement of the dispute between the Palestinians and us which lies at the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

What is the alternative, to have double the amount of terror? Here at least I have a Palestinian partner to the solution. Does the Likud propose any solution?

[Mish'al] I am not asking the Likud, I am asking you, sir. You promised personal security to the citizens of Israel and there is no personal security.

[Rabin] I promised a solution with maximum personal security. We fought a war in Lebanon for three years. Did we end terror there? We continue to sustain casualties from Lebanese terror despite the three years of war and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] presence in Lebanon. I do not see a solution coming in one week, a month, a year or two. We must know where we are going, and we are headed toward the right solution.

As for the issue of terror, take the suicide bombings. Some 119 Israelis, including the settler murdered two nights ago, were killed or murdered since 1 January 1994, 77 of them in suicide bombings perpetrated by Islamic radical fanatics. Did they take place in Judaea and Samaria? No, they occurred in 'Afula, Hadera, Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv, the Elite Junction in Ramat Gan, and Jerusalem. All the bombers were Palestinians who came from areas under our control. We, too, failed to prevent acts of terror by Islamic lunatics and radical religious fanatics. We will continue to act as long as we control the territories. We will continue to make demands on the Palestinians, knowing that there is an answer on the horizon. There is a solution that is unacceptable to some Israelis who are our political rivals, and which is unacceptable to some Palestinians, the Islamic extremists who are our murderous enemies. However, there is a chance, there is a solution in the horizon.

[Mish'al] Not too long ago you were quoted in the press as asking: If terror attacks can be perpetrated from Gaza, what will happen if we leave Janin, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm? What would you reply to your own question?

[Rabin] I said that in the context of our demand that the Palestinian Authority [PA] prevent terrorist attacks from the areas under their control. For example, half a year ago, the PA handed over 200 or 300 original Israeli identity cards as well as hundreds of Israeli birth certificates, and told us: Dear friends, perhaps you can see to it that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] does not get hold of such documents? We realized then that the documents had been stolen from the Interior Ministry in Ramla by extremist Hamas elements. The deed was perpetrated on Israeli territory, the documents were taken to Gaza and seized by the PA, and handed back to us. Imagine how many terrorists could have carried Israeli identity cards and birth certificates.

[Mish'al] Was your question in that context?

[Rabin] No, it was in the context of my belief that we must demand stricter action from the PA, just as I demand it from us.

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, I do not know if you noticed that the rage is directed at you after every terrorist attack

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— and you have just mentioned a series of them. You are the one being called a murderer and a traitor — last week you got a new title, The Engineer — while Shim'on Peres remains the architect of peace. Can you explain this phenomenon?

[Rabin] As prime minister, I bear overall responsibility. Nothing is being done without my okay, whether it has to do with the peace process or bearing more painful consequences, both as prime minister and defense minister. I have no complaint against those who direct their rage at me, and I know why they do it. They know that the only person who can lead this move is me.

[Mish'al] Do you not mind? Does it not hurt you? Does it not bother you to be called a murderer and a traitor?

[Rabin] I would say that it is not pleasant. All I feel toward them is contempt. Who are they? Did they fight as I did? Are they responsible for Israel's security achievements as I am?

[Mish'al] Many of them fought along with you.

[Rabin] I have never offended them, neither Knesset Member [MK] Rehav'am Ze'evi, whom I appreciate as a fighter and a commander, nor MK Ari'el Sharon. I will argue with their views, but I have not and will never call them names because I appreciate their performance during their IDF service. I oppose their political positions.

[Mish'al] On the face of it, known as you are as Mr. Credibility and Mr. Security, you could have been the ideal man to enter into a dialogue with the right wing. However, you of all people, have become their No. 1 enemy.

[Rabin] For a reason. They realize that there is only one man who can pull this move off, and I am that man. Nobody else could have pulled off the agreement with the PLO, the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, and the continuation of the Oslo process.

[Mish'al] Have you not missed a historic opportunity to enter into a dialogue with them?

[Rabin] I do not think I missed it, and the reason is simple. There is an ideological conflict between Greater Israel and a Jewish state that does not want to rule over another people, which means an agreement to create a Palestinian entity — as I see it, something less than a state that lives in peace with us. At my age and with my experience I am not looking for popularity. When I decided to run for the premiership on behalf of my party in the 1992 Knesset elections, I believed that a historic opportunity had been created to advance toward peace, not without pain or problems along the way, or without difficulties and internal opposition. I thought this would bring the circle of my life around, of my 27 years in the military; to exhaust the opportunity given to the State of Israel, partly because of events over which we have no control, and partly due to our ability to use this opportunity to realize Zionism as I see it.

[Mish'al] Sir, I understand your point, but now I would like to go back to the settlers. Why do you like to anger them? Why do you call them names? Only a few minutes ago you say that all you feel toward them is contempt.

[Rabin] I feel contempt toward those who call me a murderer and a traitor. Please be accurate.

[Mish'al] I stand corrected. Now let me repeat the question: Why do you like to anger them? You called them collaborators with Hamas.

[Rabin] I call the right wing that, not them. If I need proof, there was an announcement on al-Quds Radio in Damascus on behalf of Hamas saying that the political goal of terror is to bring down Rabin and his government.

[Mish'al] What has that got to do with the right wing and why call them a collaborator with Hamas?

[Rabin] Because some of them, the extremists — this does not apply to the settlers or the entire right wing — like to gloat over spilled blood. They do not condemn the murderers, but instead help them attain their political goal.

[Mish'al] Nevertheless, being the prime minister, have you not gone too far by calling Israeli citizens collaborators with Hamas?

[Rabin] Only those who really help them out. Hamas counts on them. There is a reason why Hamas does not strike at the settlers but mainly at residents of Israel. Why does it do that? In order to provide them an excuse.

[Mish'al] I understand that you do not regret your remarks.

[Rabin] Not at all, not at all. Moreover, what were your first questions about? On the issue of personal security, and not about the ideological conflict between Greater Israel and my position, the position of the Labor Party.

At the moment I am being accused of forsaking the lives of the settlers. Once it was said that the settlers were an addition to security. Where is the security? Our problem today is to provide security for the settlers, and I am not talking about border settlements.

[Mish'al] Do you consider the settlers pioneers?

[Rabin] Not at all.

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[Mish'al] So what do you consider them?

[Rabin] I consider them people who fulfill their political ideology. They believe in Greater Israel and moving to settlements. Their pronouncement that the settlements are an addition to security is unfounded — and I am not talking about settlements along the confrontation lines. The latter are a totally different story than Psagot, a tiny suburb of al-Birah and Ramallah, with 800 versus 50,000 people; Brakha and Yitzhar versus Nabulus; or 450 Jews within Hebron's population of 150,000 — these are not settlements.

[Mish'al] Sir, let us talk about current issues. Will the IDF withdraw from Hebron?

[Rabin] We demand special arrangements in Hebron in order to defend the Jewish settlement there, which I did not allow during my first tenure as prime minister. I think a serious error was committed, which has nothing to do with the Jewish holy sites, such as the Cave of the Patriarchs and the Avraham Avinu Synagogue, whose restoration as a holy site, not as a Jewish quarter of Hebron, I ordered during my first tenure as prime minister. Qiryat Arba' is just like Upper Nazareth — this is the answer to Hebron.

[Mish'al] Are you thinking of evacuating the Jews from Hebron?

[Rabin] The commitment I gave to the Knesset on the basis of the Declaration of Principles with the PLO is not to evacuate any Jewish settlement during the interim period stands.

[Mish'al] Did you find a solution when you toured Hebron on Monday? Did this tour provide a way out?

[Rabin] I had a solution even before.

[Mish'al] What is it?

[Rabin] The formula of the other six cities will not apply to Hebron. There will be a special arrangement which will ensure the security of the Jewish inhabitants there, within the city itself and in Qiryat Arba' and Giv'at Haharsina, and regarding Israel's freedom of action in Hebron in the security sphere.

[Mish'al] Does that mean that the IDF will not pull out?

[Rabin] I did not say that, I am speaking about principles. There will be a certain degree of evacuation from the places we control in Hebron, not the holy places I mentioned earlier. On the other hand, if we fail to reach an agreement, as an Israeli and a Jew I will not feel good if 120,000 Palestinians living in Hebron are not allowed to hold elections not under the shadow of the Israeli bayonet because of 450 Jews.

[Mish'al] Do you think 'Arafat will accept your proposed solution?

[Rabin] I do not know. I have positions, and these will be presented by the foreign minister in his meeting with 'Arafat in Taba. These positions have been agreed upon and I believe they are right.

[Mish'al] Another issue is the prisoners. What are your fears regarding the release of Palestinian prisoners? Are you afraid of Israeli public reaction?

[Rabin] No, this is a personal consideration. I ask myself which prisoners I can release. During all wars we released soldiers with whom we fought, soldiers who killed Israelis. In 1956 we released the president of the Egyptian military court who in 1954 hanged Egyptian Jews who allegedly spied for Israel. It is true that our attitude toward the soldiers of a country which fought us is different from that toward terrorists, but still, I reached an agreement with those who sent them, the PLO. At a certain stage we were engaged in a terrorist struggle waged by the PLO against us. From the moment....

[Mish'al, interrupting] Mr. Rabin, will you release the prisoners in the framework of the agreement?

[Rabin] I will release prisoners. I will not release those who murdered and wounded Israelis, although at a later stage, when we reach the permanent agreement, we will look into other components as well.

[Mish'al] I would now like to ask you about 'Arafat. When you sit down with 'Arafat for a talk, sometimes a crucial talk, about the future of Eretz Yisra'el and related issues, do you believe him?

[Rabin] The question is not simple. His friends can also ask him if he believes me.

[Mish'al] But you are our prime minister.

[Rabin] I made a strategic decision with my government colleagues to view 'Arafat and the PLO that he leads as the partner to the move which I presented earlier: peace with the Palestinians, with a Palestinian entity which lives alongside the State of Israel.

[Mish'al] Still, you sit with a person — do you not have a personal position? How does he look to you? Does he or does he not put you on, for instance?

[Rabin] I do not think that in international relations, especially in reference to relations between us and the leaders of the Arab countries, one can look for any affection, certainly not love. There is responsibility for the partnership on the one hand, and suspiciousness on the other.

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[Mish'al] I am asking you because when you emerge from such a meeting and hear his videocassettes about an ongoing jihad or yesterday's story about the duty of every Palestinian to fight for Jerusalem, do you not ask yourself the following simple question: Who is the true 'Arafat, 'Arafat of the videocassettes or the person with whom I just sat?

[Rabin] I know and it was agreed between us that there is lack of agreement about the permanent solution. After all, it was not in vain that a previous government, headed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at the time, went to the Madrid conference on the basis of the letter of invitation to that conference. The letter clearly spoke of two substantive stages which we split into more stages: the interim agreement....

[Mish'al, interrupting] That is not my question. Mr. Rabin, I asked which 'Arafat seems true to you, the one of the videocassettes or the one with whom you sit and speak?

[Rabin] I do not know for certain. I believe that what is agreed on with us he will implement. With regard to disagreements, a problem will arise at some stage which can even develop into a confrontation, but I believe....

[Mish'al, interrupting] If agreements should be implemented Mr. Rabin, then let me ask you about the Palestinian Covenant. Will you stop the talks and the process if the Palestinian Covenant is not annulled two months after the Palestinians hold their elections?

[Rabin] If they do not fulfill what is being agreed upon currently — this should be solidified in an official agreement — if within two months after the establishment of the Palestinian council the Palestinian Covenant is not significantly annulled, this will compel me to think about the continuation of the process.

[Mish'al] Not too long ago I read that you announced that if the Palestine National Council did not abolish the Palestinian Covenant, you would be forced to halt the process. Are you taking this back now?

[Rabin] I am not taking it back, nor did I say this. I said that the continuation of the process will be conditional on this.

[Mish'al] I can conclude from your remarks then that if the Palestinian Covenant is not abolished the process will not continue.

[Rabin] If there is an agreement and they do not fulfill their share in it, the continuation of the process will be conditional on this.

[Mish'al] This is a complex sentence. It is difficult to understand a clear statement from it.

[Rabin] Look, I do not like to send ultimatums. I expect one side to fulfill the agreement just as the other side has to fulfill it. There are things indeed, secondary in nature, which neither they nor we completely fulfill.

[Mish'al] Still, I am talking about the Palestinian Covenant only. I understood from your remarks....

[Rabin, interrupting] The Palestinian Covenant is a key problem in my mind. We will reach an agreement which will include this point, and if the Palestinian Covenant is not annulled, this would be grave and would make the continuation of the process not possible.

[Mish'al] Well, let us speak about Syria. The negotiations with the Syrians are stuck, and my question is whether this is only because President al-Asad is opposed to an Israeli presence on the Mount Hermon outpost.

[Rabin] I think there are numerous reasons for the gaps in positions between us and the Syrians. The Syrians do not want to receive less than what al-Sadat did from the late Prime Minister Begin. They say: You withdrew to the 4 June 1967 borders except for the Gaza Strip which the Egyptians did not want; you uprooted all Israeli presence in the area you evacuated. You did not demand early warning stations, nor any Israeli presence. Three....

[Mish'al, interrupting] I want to move along, Mr. Rabin. Where are things stuck now?

[Rabin] The gap in positions are first. There are different positions on different subjects....

[Mish'al, interrupting] Would you be prepared to give up an agreement with the Syrians over an early warning station?

[Rabin] I do not want to tell you. You are not al-Asad after all, it is not with you that I am conducting the negotiations, and I will not tell you what I will or will not be prepared to accept. We have positions which we believe should....

[Mish'al, interrupting] Will the negotiations progress soon, in your opinion? Will you reach an agreement with the Syrians by election time?

[Rabin] I do not know. Let me add another thing. I have grounds to believe that the head of the Likud, MK Netanyahu, sent messages to Syria, the gist of which was: It is worth your while to wait until after the elections.

[Mish'al] Again now? Lately?

[Rabin] Several times although I cannot give you the dates....

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[Mish'al, interrupting] But you are making a grave statement. You are accusing the opposition head of torpedoing the negotiations with the Syrians.

[Rabin] I did not say that Netanyahu said they would or would not withdraw. I am quoting myself again — his messages to the Syrians were: It is worth your while to wait until after the elections. I cannot come and say....

[Mish'al, interrupting] What you are saying, is it well-founded? Was this recently? There was an announcement once that....

[Rabin, interrupting] It is absolutely well-founded, and I am talking about the last six months. It is possible....

[Mish'al, interrupting] Is this why the negotiations got stuck?

[Rabin] I did not say that. There are gaps in the positions too, but I think that you also heard comments by Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar', on various occasions, that the Likud proved it is prepared to withdraw from all territory occupied from an Arab country, as proven in the peace with Egypt, and perhaps Labor and Rabin do not wish to do so.

[Mish'al] Still, Mr. Rabin, it is a very sensitive matter to accuse the opposition head. I want to understand....

[Rabin, interrupting] Let me reemphasize, I possess information that the Syrians were informed by the Likud head or his emissaries that it is worth their while to wait on the peace negotiations with Israel until after the elections.

[Mish'al] I assume he will react to this.

[Rabin] Let him. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu Reacts to Rabin Remarks

TA0609202695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Sep 95

[Interview with Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu by anchorman Hayim Yavin — live in the studio]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] We would like to hear your reaction to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks. First of all, did you relay any message whatsoever to the Syrians?

[Netanyahu] Listen, this is so ridiculous that it simply belongs in the realm of fantasy. There was nothing of the sort, no message, no nothing.

[Yavin] Did you lead them to understand that it would be worth their while to wait, that you have better proposals in store than those of the current government?

[Netanyahu] I did not lead them to believe anything. I would like you to understand something: Al-Asad knows very well that if the Likud rises to power — and I believe it will — the Golan Heights will remain in our hands. So why should he wait? There are two possibilities here: Either Yitzhaq Rabin fabricated the whole thing, which is very serious, or else somebody told him about it and he believed it, which is no less serious. This only goes to show you the level of intelligence information the prime minister has about Syria, and why we look the way we do.

[Yavin] Mr. Netanyahu, what do you intend to do? I believe this is at least the second time that Mr. Rabin has made the same grave accusation.

[Netanyahu] Indeed, it is very serious that the prime minister....

[Yavin, interrupting] You take it somewhat nonchalantly, if you do not mind my saying so.

[Netanyahu] It is very serious for the prime minister to fabricate such things, but the people are not stupid. I think nobody is an idiot here. What could the Likud offer, as it were, to al-Asad when Rabin has already offered him the entire Golan Heights, down to the borders of Lake Tiberias? What is left for us to offer him, Tiberias and Zefat? The whole story is utter nonsense.

[Yavin] Do you intend to take any measures, to demand Rabin recant or produce evidence to corroborate his remarks?

[Netanyahu] This is absurd and ridiculous. I realize that the prime minister is under a lot of pressure and stuck with a failed agreement with the PLO. He cannot stage his usual spectacle of balloons and blaring trumpets with al-Asad and that is why he is looking for scapegoats. One time he accuses us of collaborating with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], another time he says we collaborate with al-Asad. Soon he will blame us for the failure of our soccer team in the match against Slovakia this evening. Who knows?

The important thing is: We will negotiate with Syria based on the position that the Golan will remain in our hands. We will negotiate as a government, not while we are the opposition. An opposition does not conduct negotiations. I will insist on this point when we are in the government, too.

[Yavin] Let us now talk about Hebron. I think this is the first time that the prime minister has talked about evacuating a Jewish settlement anywhere in the current period. I would once again like to quote what he said: There will be a certain degree of evacuation of Jews from Hebron. What is your reaction to this?

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[Netanyahu] I do not know what period he is referring to. If he is referring to the current period or near future, I believe this means he has broken yet another promise. After all, he gave a clear commitment, not just not to establish territorial facts but also not to evacuate Jews. I do not think Hebron is the prime minister's private property. Hebron is the most ancient Jewish settlement, the cradle of Jewish culture, history, and religion. We cannot accept such a demand or the fact that the prime minister should uproot Jews from Hebron. We will stop it.

[Yavin] What will you do? How will you proceed? Will you join Zo Artzenu and defend it with your bodies, as I believe you said?

[Netanyahu] We will only use legitimate and legal means.

[Yavin] Will you allow the evacuation of Jews from Hebron?

[Netanyahu] We will be there. I believe we will be there with many thousands, but we have no intention, and not for a moment will I allow anybody in the Likud to violate the law; we will uphold the law. I think the prime minister must understand that he cannot fool the public. He cannot say: We will keep Hebron, but we will uproot people from Hebron; we will keep the holy sites, but we will create a small enclave which can be easily detached. We are talking about the tombs of our nation's forefathers, and we will maintain them.

[Yavin] Ari'el Sharon is also a Likud member, and he proposes that Jews act in self-defense. Do you support such a proposal?

[Netanyahu] First of all, I did not hear him make such a proposal, he talked about other things. I think that responsibility for defending Jews lies first and foremost with the government, the government in power in Israel. I have no intention of ridding Mr. Rabin of the responsibility to defend every Jew wherever they may be in the State of Israel. This is his responsibility; he should fulfill it and we will demand that he fulfill it.

[Yavin] Mr. Netanyahu, thank you for coming to our studio.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

Dayan, Netanyahu Meet With Egypt's Ambassador

TA3108165595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan will visit Egypt next week as planned. Egyptian Ambassador Basyuni said today, prior to a preparatory meeting with Dayan, that the guest will receive a warm and sympathetic welcome, contrary to reports appearing in the Egyptian press urging the banning of Israeli officials' visits until Israel launches an official investigation into the Egyptian POW's murder affair. Ambassador Basyuni emphasized that the opposition papers have spearheaded this campaign, adding that the issue should be dealt with through diplomatic channels.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu also held a meeting with Ambassador Basyuni. Netanyahu expressed displeasure with remarks made by President Mubarak to the effect he hopes that the peace process is completed before the Likud returns to power. Netanyahu noted that this issue is the affair of the Israeli public alone. This is reported by our correspondents Yaron Deqel and Yaron Kaner.

Dayan on POW's, Syria Peace Process

NC0709103295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan has stated that he has been unable to convince Egyptian officials of his country's stance on Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars. He noted the Israeli Government's readiness to pay the necessary compensation for the victims' families who suffered the tragedy.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM today, the Israeli official said he realizes that there is a problem that has to be solved. He added: We denounce and regret what happened. It has turned into a political, social, and humanitarian issue that must be reconsidered. Possible ways should be sought in consultation with the Egyptian Government to settle this issue and examine the Egyptian officials' demands in this respect.

Dayan said he believes that a Palestinian-Israeli agreement to expand self-rule will be signed at the end of September and that the signing ceremony will be held in Washington.

Commenting on the Syrian-Israeli track of the peace process, he said things might seem bad at present but the Americans are currently trying to revive negotiations between the two sides.

Opinion Poll on Probing POW Affair

TA0109111895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Sep 95 p 2

[Mutagim Institute Poll; all answers given in percents]

[FBIS Translated Text] Question: Could calls such as "Rabin and Peres are traitors," and attacks on policemen and border policemen during right-wing demonstrations

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exacerbate the confrontation to the point of the use of firearms by right wing members?

Answer: Yes — 56; no — 31; do not know — 10; no answer — 3.

Question: Do you think Israelis who have murdered Egyptian POW's should be tried?

Answer: Yes — 21; no — 67; do not know — 8; no answer — 4.

Question: Should Israel demand that the Egyptian Government try Egyptian soldiers who have murdered Israeli POW's?

Answer: Yes — 40; no — 49; do not know — 8; no answer — 3.

The poll, which was conducted on 29 and 30 August, includes 500 interviewees who constitute a representative sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel. Maximum margin of error is 4.5 percent.

Deportation of Illegal Egyptian Workers Ordered

TA0609153095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Interior Ministry has ordered the deportation of three Egyptian citizens who have been working in a Tel Aviv restaurant without work permits.

Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller says this is the first time that Egyptian citizens working in Israel have been deported.

Some 650 foreign workers have been deported from the country since the beginning of 1995.

Palestinian Claims of 1956 Murders Denied

TA0609164295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After an initial check, Israeli security sources denied Palestinian allegations that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers murdered 450 prisoners in Khan Yunus in the 1956 Sinai Campaign. Justice Minister David Liba'i nevertheless announced that the allegations are still being checked.

The Justice Ministry's spokesperson told our correspondent Nisim Qeynan that in the meeting in Erez this morning between Minister Liba'i and Furayh Abu-Middayn, the latter claimed that the IDF had murdered prisoners. Minister Liba'i expressed his astonishment at the very raising of the issue at a time when both sides are trying to build mutual confidence. He warned that such claims would trigger Israeli counterclaims about pogroms, murders, and atrocities perpetrated by the Palestinians.

Levi on Golan Concessions, Talks With 'Arafat

TA0509061595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Knesset Member David Levi says he is ready for concessions on the Golan Heights in exchange for true peace with Syria. Levi, who is leaving the Likud to form his own party, says that if elected prime minister, he would be ready under certain conditions to meet with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. David Levi was interviewed on Channel 2 Television.

Poll Shows Rising Support for Golan Withdrawal

TA0409093695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Over half the public still opposes a Syrian-Israeli peace treaty that would include total withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for security arrangements and full diplomatic ties. But the percentage is dropping compared to previous polls, while the percentage of support for such a treaty is rising.

This emerges from a poll conducted between August 7 and August 17 by Modi'in Ezrahi on behalf of the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University. The poll surveyed 1,233 adult Jews in face-to-face interviews. The margin of error is 2.9%.

Asked: "Do you support or oppose a proposal for a Syrian-Israeli peace treaty that would involve total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, in exchange for security arrangements on the Golan and diplomatic relations between the two countries," 54.1% said they opposed it, 30% said they support it, and 15.9% were undecided.

In response to the same question in December, 64.4% opposed it, 23.2% favored it, and 12.4% didn't know. But when respondents were presented with a list of options on the Golan Heights, only 4.2% of respondents favored giving the entire area to Syria; 19.3% favored partial withdrawal; 26.5% wanted very limited withdrawal; and 48.1% wanted Israel to retain full sovereignty.

IDF Appoints Security Coordinator for West Bank

TA0509061395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In advance of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, Colonel Moshe El'ad has been appointed security coordinator in Judaea and Samaria. This is a new IDF position, and Col. El'ad will

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be responsible for seven liaison offices in the area. The officer is to take up his command immediately after the signing of the Oslo B agreement. Fifty IDF and police officers have been trained for liaison duties after the redeployment.

Poll: 73 Percent for Referendum Before Oslo B

TA0109111595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by JERUSALEM POST Staff]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seventy-three percent of Israeli Jews polled Tuesday [29 August] backed holding a referendum before implementation of Stage 2 of the Oslo accord, while 64% backed President 'Ezer Weizman's suggestion that one be held before implementation. A total of 52% said not doing so would represent a threat to Israeli democracy.

The poll, commissioned by Independent Media Review and Analysis [IMRA] and conducted by the independent survey organization Mutagim, asked 500 Israeli Jews aged 18 and over: "In your opinion, should or shouldn't there be a referendum before the implementation of Stage 2 of the Oslo agreement?"

While 73% said there should be, 20% said there should not, 5% said they didn't know and 2% refused to answer. Asked "Do you support or oppose the president suggesting a referendum before the implementation of Stage 2 of the Oslo agreement," 64% supported such a move, 27% opposed it, 6% said they didn't know and 3% refused to answer.

Asked: In case there is no referendum, would this, in your opinion, represent or not represent a threat to Israeli democracy?" 52% said it would be a threat, 38% said it did not represent a threat, 8% didn't know and 2% refused to answer.

The poll had a 4.5% margin of error.

IMRA said the poll results were particularly impressive since no campaign has been launched to promote a referendum as a requirement for implementing the second stage of the Oslo accord.

Shin Bet Detains 'Terrorist' in Settler Stabbing

TA0609191295 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Sep 95

[Yoram Binur video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Within 24 hours the Shin Bet has detained the person suspected of murdering Daniyel Frei and wounding his wife Mara in Ma'ale Mikhmas. The suspect, Hamadallah Dararmah, 20, from the village of Dayr Dibwan was detained last night. Our correspondent Yoram Binur was in his village today and filed the following details.

[Begin Binur recording] The Dararmah family lives near the central square of Dayr Dibwan. Hamadallah, a 20-year-old bachelor, was detained early this morning while he was sleeping at home, and the investigators already have solid proof connecting him to the murder in Ma'ale Mikhmas. [passage omitted]

Dararmah is not known as an activist in one of the organizations, and was even suspected of being a collaborator in the past. Lately he became religious, and the investigators are looking into the possibility that he pepetrated the terrorist act in order to clear his name. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Settlers Attack Muslim Court in Hebron

NC0709083395 Paris AFP in English 0815 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hebron, West Bank, Sept 7 (AFP) - Jews smashed windows, burnt a Palestinian flag and painted anti-Arab slogans on an Islamic court building in the heart of Hebron overnight, witnesses said Thursday [7 September].

"Death to Arabs," "Hebron is ours forever," was spray painted over a Palestinian Authority sign put up on the building only on Wednesday.

The settlers who live in the disputed West Bank city tore down a red, black green and white Palestinian flag and set it ablaze before soldiers dispersed them.

"Such things happen here daily," Shaykh Fawzi al-Khatib, a Waqf manager, told AFP. "Anyone who tries to walk through the settlement area to the market place or to the mosque is beaten or insulted."

The operation came after the court was shifted Wednesday to the building owned by the Islamic trust or waqf, which manages Muslim sites, in Hebron's old quarter.

Jews have taken over most of the quarter since Israel captured the West Bank in 1967.

According to Israel newspaper reports which could not be immediately confirmed the Palestinian Authority has decided to re-populate the old quarter with Arabs in a direct challenge to Jewish occupation.

Meanwhile, four molotov cocktails were thrown by Palestinians on Peace Street in Hebron overnight as Israeli vehicles drove past, witnesses said.

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Troops had intervened Wednesday as Palestinians and Jewish settlers scuffled when the court offices opened and the flag was raised.

The move was to show the Palestinian attachment to the holy city where 400 Jews have settled under Israeli army protection, waqf officials said.

The confrontations came as Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat were to pursue a second day of talks on the spread of autonomy, which have stumbled over army withdrawal from Hebron.

Israel wants to maintain security control of the town where a settler gunned down 29 Muslims at prayer in the Tomb of the Patriarchs in February 1994.

The PLO refuses to hold elections without a full Israeli withdrawal, while the settlers have threatened to set up a private militia if troops pull back.

'Official': Yasin Release Linked to End of Terror

TA0109111195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Sep 95 pp 1, 22

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israel will link the release of imprisoned Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin to a halt in terror attacks, a senior Israeli official close to the negotiations said yesterday.

"We will not release Yasin until Hamas changes its approach and stops terror attacks against Israel," the official said.

A phased prisoner release is expected to be worked out before an expanded self-rule agreement is reached in the next few weeks.

Yasin, 59, was arrested in 1989 and sentenced in 1991 to life in prison for ordering the killings of Palestinians. He confessed in a deal in which charges of murdering soldiers Ilan Sa'adon and Avi Sasportas were dropped.

There had been contacts between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority [PA] in late spring and early summer about stopping terror attacks against Israel, but Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin claims that the deal was foiled by Islamic militants living abroad.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will meet PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat next Wednesday in Taba to discuss prisoner releases and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deployment in and around Hebron, the official said.

While Palestinian chief negotiator Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] yesterday questioned whether the pace of the current technical talks in Elat would enable an agreement to be reached this month, the Israeli official sounded more confident than ever that the signing ceremony will be held at the White House on September 18.

Jordan's King Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and top officials from Russia, Japan, and the European Union are also expected to attend.

"The ceremony will be on September 18," the official said. "It is the one day that works for (President Bill) Clinton, Rabin, 'Arafat, Husayn, and Mubarak. If it is any later, we get into the period of the Jewish holidays, and then we have to wait a month. I think we can conclude the negotiations by then."

Abu-'Ala' sounded less sanguine. "There were almost no achievements in this week's negotiations," he told REUTERS. "Every time I think we are close to an agreement, we face new obstacles and regress because of the Israeli position. "The agreement will be 320 pages, but if we continue talks with this Israeli position of leaving things to the end, I don't believe we can sign an agreement in September."

However, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir suggested that Abu-'Ala's remarks were motivated by tactical considerations — to extract Israeli concessions as negotiations move into the final phase. "We are at the end phase of negotiations, which explains some of the constant rhetoric. But altogether, progress is continuous," he said.

A good part of this week's talks were taken up by the negotiators elaborating upon the security principles reached by Peres and 'Arafat in Taba two weeks ago. They also negotiated transferring 10 more spheres of authority to the Palestinians. It is estimated that agreement on at least 25 of the 40 spheres have been completed. The talks, which recess this morning, are expected to resume on Sunday.

The prisoner issue is a major stumbling block. A ministerial committee is to meet today to discuss Israel's position on this issue. An IDF spokesman said Wednesday that Israel is holding 5,289 Palestinian security prisoners and detainees. [passage omitted]

Peace Watch: 11 PA Offices Operating in Jerusalem

TA0509112895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Sep 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Eleven Palestinian Authority [PA] institutions have been operating in Jerusalem recently in violation of the Oslo accord, according to Peace Watch, an independent organization established to monitor its implementation.

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Peace Watch officials said yesterday that this is up from the seven institutions operating six months ago. The 11 include the three institutions which have pledged to cut ties with the PA. [passage omitted]

The 11 institutions are the Palestinian Ministry of Religious Affairs; Palestinian Energy Center; Office of the Mufti of Jerusalem; Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction; Orient House; Municipal Council of East Jerusalem; Palestinian Institute for the Wounded; Palestinian Housing Council; Palestinian Bureau of Statistics; Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation; and the Palestinian Health Council.

In its report, Peace Watch outlined the connections between the various institutions and the PA. The Municipal Council of East Jerusalem, the report noted, for example, is the East Jerusalem Municipal Council, which had been subordinate to Jordan prior to the Six-Day War, as reconstituted under orders given by PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in early June. The PA funded the resumption of its activities.

The council is directly subordinate to the PA, according to its head, Dr. Amin Majaj, and is reportedly providing residents of Jerusalem with some municipal services, although Peace Watch said it has no independent confirmation of this.

The Palestinian Housing Council is already offering mortgages of $10,000-$30,000 to Arab residents of Jerusalem, out of its total mortgage budget of $2.5 million sponsored by the PA, Peace Watch said.

Among criteria used by Peace Watch to link the institutions to the PA were the role of the institution and its activities; where its funding comes from; whether its functionaries have official PA positions; and external signs appearing in the institution's offices or on printed material.

Conflicting Interests Seen in U.S. Stand

TA0709111895 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Sep 95 p 9

[Editorial: "Two Excuses and the 3000"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk — who, let us not forget, works out of Tel Aviv — came up with two explanations for his absence from the Jerusalem 3000 festivities. First, he had to host his embassy staff on Labor Day. Second, he promised to visit a shelter for battered women. These two explanations, one must admit, look like lame excuses.

The minor panic in the U.S. Administration over this issue stems from the familiar tension between domestic and foreign considerations in Washington — and not only there. From the beginning, the U.S. Administration preferred to steer clear of the Jerusalem controversy. This, ostensibly, is also Israel's policy, judging from the interim agreements that leave the most difficult issues for the final stage. Rabin's government, however, was forced by various incidents to deal with Jerusalem sooner than planned. The Orient House affair, the Jerusalem bus attack, 'Arafat's offensive statements about raising the Palestinian flag on the walls of Jerusalem even at the expense of "the last Palestinian child" — all these introduced Jerusalem into the political melee, even if it is officially scheduled to be raised only in two or three years, during the permanent arrangement stage.

The arbitrary timing of the Jerusalem 3000 festivities forced foreign ministries abroad to take a stand one way or another, knowing very well that any decision was bound to anger either Israel or the Arabs. Whether by chance or as a result of prior coordination, the powers behind the ambassadors decided it would be better to momentarily anger Israel as long as the political process continues.

Regarding the U.S. angle, this decision reflects the State Department position, but the White House is also attentive to voices coming out of Capitol Hill and the Jewish community. Therefore, after the most potentially embarrassing moment — media coverage of its ambassador's participation in an occasion that highlights Israel's claim to Jerusalem (when Washington does not recognize the western side as Israel's capital and the eastern side as Israeli territory) — has passed, Clinton can appease the vociferous pro- Jerusalem lobby by promising that Indyk will participate in some other event. The lesson, as usual, is that one cannot have Jerusalem and eat it, too, but one can go through the motions of chewing and hope for a momentary respite, until hunger strikes again.

Arrow, Barrier Antimissile Systems Described

BR0509131595 Frauenfeld ASMZ in German Jul-Aug 95 pp 47-48

[Report by David Eshel: "Future of Israeli Antimissile System"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In January 1991, for the first time after six wars, Israel experienced the terror of about 40 Iraqi Scud missiles. Apart from the experiences in the shelters, the population was shocked mainly by the 11,500 homes destroyed, the government's helplessness, and the disruption to industry. The Israeli expert Eshel explains why an improvement in Israel's own antimissile system is a matter of priority, and what

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technical and operational solutions can be considered to achieve this. The current feasibility of the performance expected from the new guided missile and combat drones tend to be overestimated.

Israel Speeds Up Development of Its Own Arrow

As a result, Israel did not speed up the procurement of the American Patriot antimissile missile, which had been considered disappointingly weak and which had been modified in a makeshift fashion during the Gulf War as a defense against rocket attacks. Instead, Israel's own Arrow guided missile which had already started to be developed as a large-scale missile defense system with a speed of Mach 9 (Patriot's is Mach 3) was intended to intercept enemy rockets at a distance of 80 km (the Patriot can intercept at only 18 km from the target).

The development and construction costs for the entire Arrow system are estimated at $2 to 5 billion. The price of one individual system depends on the forthcoming orders. A price reduction is likely to occur if the United States also decides to procure the system.

New Threat Scenario

A few years ago Israel was still expecting a threat posed by a total of 1,000 missiles, of which 100 to 150 would be fired daily in salvos of varying size and which would be intercepted by two Arrow guided missiles with a destruction probability of 90 percent.

Over the next 20 years Israel is expecting a threat posed by an arsenal of 2,000 to 3,000 enemy missiles equipped with conventional, chemical, or biological — and possibly nuclear — warheads. In view of the North Korean Nodong-1 rocket launcher, the range is likely to increase from 600 km to about 1,000 km.

The new requirements for the Arrow system were, therefore: greater mobility of the defense system; greater interception distance (mainly because the nuclear warhead may soon become feasible); successful deployment even against a mixture of enemy missiles (chemical and nuclear, dummy and genuine warheads).

The Arrow can be transported in a C-130 and has two dynamic booster engines. Valuable experience in telemetry and other fields was gained during tests. The Arrow's defense capabilities are likely to match the Western Erint and Thad systems. The required rate of destruction of 90 percent in theory (probably 70 percent in practice) is leading to an acceptable reduction of the risk for a well-prepared population.

Nuclear Threat Critical

If the nuclear threat is included in the calculations, an approaching missile must be intercepted outside the radiation range of its firing site. Neither the Air Force, which has always been successful in the past, nor the highly mobile tank units would be able to avert this future danger in good time. The emergence of surface-to-surface missiles with their terror effect has fundamentally altered the strategic situation for Israel, particularly in view of the potential deployment of nuclear missiles. Although there is still little likelihood of this happening in the near future, such missiles in the hands of irrational dictators or fundamentalist fanatics would greatly jeopardize Israel's survival.

Barrier: An Inspired Discovery?

The Barrier defense system is reportedly composed of three defense rings. Initially, a ring of Arrows will intercept attacking missiles at a distance of 80 km. Patriot-Erint missiles will take out missiles at a distance of 30 km, whilst the short-range defense system with electromagnetic rapid-fire guns would have to liquidate the remaining missiles. Barrier would be supported by the most up- to-date sensors, real-time information, and early-warning systems.

Preventive Strikes Imperative

Barrier could be expected to achieve a 100-percent success rate against chemical and biological missiles, but not against cunningly planned atomic missile attacks which would have a devastating effect on the densely populated Israeli settlements. At present only an effective deterrent can deter fanatical rulers and terrorists from such an attack. Israel must therefore leave open the possibility of both a passive and an active strategy. To this end, Barrier must be supplemented by preventive surprise attacks on known enemy missile positions, e.g., with F-15 E aircraft.

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King Husayn Interviewed on Situation in Iraq

JN0709054195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 7 Sep 95

["Text" of interview with King Husayn of Jordan by Jihad al-Khazin published by the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper on 7 September; place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Al-Khazin] How do you explain inter-Arab sensitivities, the loss of coordination on the peace process, and the lack of confidence among Arab leaders?

[Husayn] The big sister, Egypt, followed the road of peace until its very end, thus opening the doors of peace in the region. Following Egypt, the Palestinian side acted in the manner we all know and we acted to save our land and waters and restore our rights on the path of peace, which included all Arab sides in Madrid. Let us talk about another dimension, which is coordination. We have always advocated coordination. It has been proven that there is some ambiguity regarding the interpretation of the meaning of coordination. Do I overlook my responsibilities toward my country after everybody has taken the road of peace? Coordination, then, will be a kind of dependence on others, while the other brother is not giving me an idea about what is happening. How can I leave Jordan until the end of the road, while it is deprived of the means of strength and steadfastness possessed by the others and while it is not supported by foreign forces and, regrettably, has no Arab support.

[Al-Khazin] How are relations with Syria?

[Husayn] Relations with Syria are normal and ordinary, and we hope that Syria will attain its rights to the occupied territory shortly and that a comprehensive peace will be achieved. We also support the efforts of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

[Al-Khazin] You have called for a change in Iraq. Do you think that the regime will collapse?

[Husayn] Without any change in my position, I call for rescuing the Iraqi people from their suffering, whether it is the blockade or the fact that they are denied many of their rights. I spoke about democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights. It became clear to me recently that the Iraqi people are denied a great deal of these. Efforts must be made to rescue Iraq, so it will not be exposed to dangers and fragmentation. Iraq is one of the most important sisterly countries and we support the Iraqi people, and not any other side.

[Al-Khazin] Does the solution lie in the departure of Saddam Husayn?

[Husayn] Let us be objective. Iraq is made up of three basic components. It is a country that should be a symbol of respect for pluralism. However, these components fear each other. It is time to take all possible measures to achieve national reconciliation among the three components and to allow them to formulate an ideal situation, so Iraq can face its future and fate. On the other hand, I think Iraq must fully comply with UN resolutions. The subject is more serious than the weapons of mass destruction, and even settling this issue will not lead to the lifting of sanctions on Iraq. There are influential international forces which speak about all the resolutions, including the return of the brother missing Kuwaitis. I had sent somebody to the Iraqi leadership, inquiring about them and appealing for their release. All this was happening against the background of the credibility which was lost regarding the subject of weapons of mass destruction. Every time Iraq says something, it reveals another thing until we reached this situation.

[Al-Khazin] When you visited Egypt, President Mubarak offered to grant political asylum to Saddam Husayn. You said that Saddam is not this kind of person. Do you envisage a situation under which Saddam could leave Iraq?

[Husayn] I cannot speculate about anything. God alone determines how long any person will live. President Mubarak told me in my recent visit that he agrees to host Saddam Husayn, even if there is opposition to this in Egypt.

[Al-Khazin] When was your last contact with Saddam Husayn?

[Husayn] It was during my last visit to Iraq in August 1990. Since then, I have neither seen him nor spoken to him on the telephone.

[Al-Khazin] Has Husayn Kamil's refuge in Jordan affected the regime in Iraq?

[Husayn] I believe that it has affected me personally, Iraq, and the world's view of what is taking place.

[Al-Khazin] How did it affect you?

[Husayn] I have known him for many years. I used to go to Iraq during the eight-year war with Iran, a war that took a heavy toll of human losses. I used to talk about the eastern flank with this young man. I noticed that he attracted the best young brains when he was entrusted with the task of overseeing war industrialization. They responded to the call and provided the Iraqi forces with many of its needs. That was a great achievement. I knew him to be close to the leadership. He had a role in the formation of the Republican Guards. He

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was also in charge of the organization responsible for reconstruction after the Gulf war. While close to the top, he chose to quit his position and left in despair. He spoke to me about his months-long suffering and about his reform attempts from within. However, his efforts were obstructed and he lost all hope in the face of the Iraqi people's suffering under the blockade. I felt that his conscience was troubled by the situation in Iraq. Although he was capable of effecting a change while he was there, he preferred to leave because of moral considerations since he is a member of the leadership family. Jordan was his destination because it is trusted by the Iraqi people. When he spoke to me about the situation, I was shocked and pained. I support the people of Iraq and their life, future, and destiny. We used to tackle problems from the perspective of the foreign blockade and we used to hear all sorts of stories, which we believe were rather exaggerated.

[Al-Khazin] How did you know about Husayn Kamil's departure from Iraq?

[Husayn] I knew about it while we were celebrating Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary. He requested an audience with me.

[Al-Khazin] Had you not previously spoken with him about the subject and welcomed his refuge in Jordan?

[Husayn] Never. We welcome any official. I thought he was carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn after Kamil's return from Moscow. He told me that the situation was difficult.

[Al-Khazin] How can the situation be resolved?

[Husayn] The UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented. They are not confined to the destruction of the weapons of mass destruction. There is the subject of missing Kuwaitis and human rights in Iraq. The entire policy must be reconsidered.

[Al-Khazin] You are not spelling it out. However, allow me to say it for you: Doesn't the only solution lie in Saddam Husayn's departure from the country?

[Husayn] If I felt myself to be an obstacle in the face of my people, I would not stay, and would withdraw. I have already said this so that some may hear. However, nobody heard.

[Al-Khazin] Have you discussed the situation in Iraq with British officials?

[Husayn] The meeting with Prime minister John Major was an ordinary one. We discussed bilateral relations and regional situation, including the Iraq issue. However, it was not a predominant issue at the talks. We always talk to all world nations on the Iraq issue and the suffering of its people.

[Al-Khazin] Have you spoken with the Americans?

[Husayn] I have not yet had the opportunity. However, an opportunity may become available in the near future. In all my talks, I stand by the Iraqi people.

[Al-Khazin] You always talk about the Iraqi people and their suffering. I frankly ask you: Do you want to become the king of Iraq? You were the last deputy head of the Iraq-Jordan federation?

[Husayn] I cannot possibly think of that. I have enough sensitivities. I have no ambition or desire at all for such a post. I am doing what relieves my conscience toward the people of Iraq against the backdrop of the relationship that you have noted. That relationship ended after 1958 when we recognized the Iraqi people's right to chose their lifestyle. The mere thought of that, of being Iraq's king, causes more troubles than provides a solution. I may be popular in Iraq. Apart from that, there is nothing, not even a thought.

[Al-Khazin] Will there be a cabinet reshuffle in Jordan?

[Husayn] No, not as far as I know.

[Al-Khazin] Do you mean there will be no cabinet reshuffle this year?

[Husayn] These are Amman rumors.

Comentary on King's Remarks

JN0709093295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Sep 95 pp 1, 28

[Editorial: "Biased Toward the People of Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With his known frankness and clarity, His Majesty King Husayn spoke to the London-based AL-HAYAH on the latest developments in the Arab arena, particularly the situation in Iraq and the fraternal people's suffering as a result of the bitter international blockade and the loss of their rights.

Jordan has firmly supported Iraq in good times and bad, and will continue to support the Iraqi people, unfailingly backing them in their harsh human ordeal.

We do not interfere in others' domestic affairs. However, from a position of brotherhood and solidarity, we extend advice and sound the alarm. Iraq's ability to emerge from its ordeal depends on the extent of its commitment to the implementation of all relevant international resolutions. This is the shortest if not the only way to end the suffering and emerge from the bottleneck.

King Husayn presented an example of a model leader entertaining no ambitions and desiring no post. Rather, he is leading selfless efforts and showing constant

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readiness to place the interest of the Iraqi people before the interest of any individual whoever he is.

We are siding by Iraq and its patient people who adhere to national unity. We support Iraq's unity, sovereignty, and independence. We will always be as known by our kinfolk and brothers — a refuge for them in distress and a support on which they can rely. This has been proved by past and present experiences.

Sudanese Speaker Sends Senate President Message

JN0609184295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi said the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, always seeks to enhance the concept of adherence to reason and peaceful and calm fraternal dialogue in solving any difference between any two Arab countries. He added that Jordan is very hurt by any inter-Arab disputes.

The Senate president, who received a message from Muhammad al- Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Sudanese Transitional National Assembly, delivered by the assembly's delegation which is currently visiting Jordan, said the world now searches for points of agreement and cooperation rather than dispute, and that the Arab nation, with all factors of unity and accord it is having, should be the first to entrench this sound approach in inter-Arab relations.

The message Al-Lawzi received from the speaker of the Sudanese Transitional National Assembly deals with Sudan's position on the Sudanese-Egyptian dispute on Hala'ib province. The Sudanese delegation was briefed on the sincere Jordanian hope that the two fraternal countries, Sudan and Egypt, will reach the ideal formula for solving their dispute through calm brotherly dialogue.

Al-Lawzi said the Jordanian Parliament is ready to carry out any suitable and possible effort to help contain the dispute between the two sisterly countries.

The delegation members, Abu-'Ali Majdhub Abu-'Ali and 'Abd-al- Rahman al-Fadini, explained the Sudanese viewpoint on the dispute with Egypt on Hala'ib, and said Sudan calls for bilateral dialogue, dialogue through an Arab mediator, or arbitration to solve this dispute in a peaceful and calm way away.

The Sudanese delegation said Sudan is seeking efforts by all Arab parties, especially parliamentary efforts to solve the dispute with Egypt through fraternal dialogue.

The meeting was attended by Sudanese Ambassador to Jordan 'Ali al-Numayri.

Trial of French Diplomat's Attackers Begins

JN0609165895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Sep 95 p 36

[Report by Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Security Court held a public session yesterday to look into the al-Mawjib case. The session was chaired by Judge Colonel Hafiz Amin, assisted by Judges Tayil al- Raqqad and Fawwaz al-Buqur, and attended by Public Prosecutor Major Mahmud 'Ubaydat and the defendants' attorneys.

At the outset of the session, Judge Hafiz Amin asked the two defendants how they pled to the charges of possessing and manufacturing unlicensed explosives with the aim of using them illegally and of participating in a plot to carry out terrorist acts.

Salih al-'Armuti, who is defending suspect Ahmad Khalid, 22, said: After reviewing the case, I deem it necessary to submit a memorandum on the noncompetence of your honorable court to look into this case. Therefore, and before asking my client about the charges leveled against him, I request time to present the memorandum and prepare the defense briefing, particularly since there is a clear contradiction in the bill of indictment.

Attorney Hikmat al-Rawashidah, who is defending suspect Salim Ibkhit, said: I support my colleague and would also like to present a noncompetence memorandum.

The court president approved their request for time and adjourned the session until Wednesday, 20 September.

The case can be summarized as follows: In 1994, the first suspect began to think about conducting terrorist acts against visitors of tourist areas in al-Karak. He manufactured explosives and then met the second suspect. They spoke about a jihad for the sake of God and agreed to carry out an operation in Wadi al-Mawjib. The first suspect prepared some home-made bombs and placed them in a school bag. He then met the second suspect near a mosque and schemed to attack a foreigners' bus at al-Mawjib area.

As they were approaching a bus, security men in the area stopped them and asked what they were doing there. The two ran away to the al-Mawjib rest house, where they saw a car with a diplomatic license plate. Standing next to the car were the second secretary of the French Embassy in Amman and his wife. The two suspects tried to force them into the car. Fighting then erupted between the diplomat and the suspects. A police patrol in the area soon arrived, but found that the diplomat had already been wounded. The diplomat received first aid and the two suspects were arrested.

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Technical examination of the home-made bombs showed that they were extremely dangerous explosives.

Mass Resignation of Judges Reported

JN0609112295 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Sep 95 pp 1, 2

[By Ayman al-Safadi, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Press reports about an imminent crisis in the country's judicial system in the wake of the mass resignation of senior judges are exaggerated, judicial and Ministry of Justice sources said Tuesday [5 September].

But a senior judge who was among those who resigned said the crisis will escalate if the government does not meet the judges' demands. "The judges will not give up their demands," said the judge. "They will stand firm."

The sources said that the mass resignation of about 23 judges from the Higher Court of Justice and the Court of Cessation had not been officially submitted, describing the move as a protest aimed at pressing the judges' demands for better work conditions.

The judges' action is unprecedented not only in Jordan but anywhere in the world. In a joint move, the senior judges—all of whom have more than 25 years of service—used a legal prerogative to opt for retirement. But a legal source said it was illegal for the judges to exercise this right jointly. "This right can only be exercised individually," said the legal source, who asked not be named.

Independent legal sources said the judges should have presented a list of their demands and pursued dialogue with the authorities before opting for resignation. The sources said the judges were demanding a comprehensive health insurance system, salary raises and an independent budget for the judiciary. But they denied that they wanted duty free cars as one newspaper reported.

However, it was Minister of Finance Basil Jardanah's response to a demand made by a member of the Lower House of Parliament to give judges duty free cars that prompted the judges to make their protest. Mr. Jardanah told the lawmaker that similar demands from other sides would be made if the government decided to grant judges duty free cars.

"The judges felt the minister's remarks represented an uncalled- for attack against the judiciary," said one judge, who asked not to be named. He said senior judges were denied perks and privileges that government employees of lower ranks enjoy. For example, he cited senior government officials' entitlement to cars and drivers while judges have no such right. The same example was cited by a judge on the Court of Cessation, 'Abd al-'Aziz Abu al-Athm, in an article published by an Arabic newspaper this week.

One of the judges who signed the resignation said the issue had been discussed by the Judiciary Council, which, he said, was supportive of the judges' demands. Sources in the council confirmed that the council will support all the "fair and just demands" that the judges make. The council held a three-hour meeting on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Judge Khayr Suhaymat and asked judges to present their demands formally to the council.

Informed sources expected the crisis to be contained after a meeting between the Judiciary Council and the cabinet that it is likely to be held this week.

Legal sources said that if the resignation of the judges goes ahead, it will paralyse the judiciary in the country because the 20 to 23 judges who submitted their resignation from over two thirds of the 30 members of the Higher Court of Justice and the Court of Cessation. Observers expected the government to reach a compromise with the judges, who made their move from a position of power knowing that the country cannot afford to let them proceed with their resignation.

In remarks to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Minister of Justice Hisham al-Tall sought to reassert the respect and appreciation the executive holds for the judiciary. Mr. al-Tall confirmed that the Ministry of Justice had not received the resignation of the judges. He said the government was concerned with the well-being of the judges, according to Petra.

"The Judiciary Council is the body that presents the demand of the judges with pride and dignity. These demands are adopted by the Ministry of Justice in compliance with the royal directives that stress the independence of the judiciary and respect for its members." Mr. al-Tall said. The minister said that government will work to meet all the needs of the judiciary, pointing out that it has proposed the allocation of 10 per cent of the revenues of courts to the budget of the judiciary. This proposal, he said, will be presented to the next ordinary session of parliament.

Independent sources said meanwhile an assertion by Mr. al-Tall that the judges' action was politically motivated was not true. Mr. al-Tall had made that comment in a report carried by the al-Ra'y daily.

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Minister of Energy Reports New Gas Discovery

JN0409193195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Sep 95 pp 1, 28

[Report by Jawdat Nashkhu]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Energy Samih Darwazah has said that a new gas well was discovered south of the al-Rishah field in the northeastern part of Jordan and that the recently established National Oil Company will continue drilling for gas in the same area. It is very possible many other wells will be discovered, which will make the new field a new source of gas for the Kingdom.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, Darwazah added that gas produced from the al-Rishah field and from the new field will be used to operate power plants and some big factories.

He said that Jordan's strategy for beyond the year 2000 in the energy field is aimed at providing Jordan's factories, all power plants, and houses in Amman with gas for operating and heating purposes. Jordan is expected to meet its needs of gas for the abovementioned purposes through local production and by importing gas from Egypt and Qatar. However, the fees which will be levied against Qatar in return for storing Qatari gas in al-'Aqabah will be equal to the cost of importing gas from Qatar.

He added that Jordan is awaiting details of a Qatari offer to store gas in al-'Aqabah and then reexport it. He said that fees for storing the gas include fees for leasing the land, fees for storing and using al-'Aqabah for loading, unloading, and installing pipes, as well as any other taxes agreed by the two sides.

Oil Deals Signed With U.S., Malaysian Firms

NC0609115095 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Sept 6 (AFP)—Two oil giants from the United States and Malaysia have struck separate deals with Jordan becoming the first international firms to take up a special invitation to search for crude, officials said Wednesday [6 September].

The head of the National Resources Authority (NRA) Fakhr-al-Din al-Daghistani told AFP profit-sharing deals had been reached with the US firm Trans Global and Malaysia's Petro NAS. They will start explorations towards the end of the year.

Cash-strapped Jordan invited off-shore companies to hunt for crude in its territories late last year in a bid to generate extra income.

Trans Global has signed a "memorandum of understanding" pledging to funnel no less than seven million dollars into exploration near the Dead Sea coast and in the Jordan Valley, al-Daghistani said.

Two wells will be drilled while seismological and geological studies will be carried out over six months.

Al-Daghistani refused to reveal the terms of the profit-sharing, nor would he disclose the finances of the Malaysian deal.

Petro NAS will carry out four months of geological studies in vast areas in northern and central Jordan, after which it will decide on a joint exploration drive.

By April Jordan had sent out invitations to 60 major oil companies offering up to 50 per cent in shared profits on any oil or gas findings, al-Daghistani said.

Three other US companies are also in the final stages of signing deals with Jordan, al-Daghistani added, refusing to name them.

Even though it is surrounded by oil-rich countries, Jordan has never produced commercial quantities of "black gold" despite pouring 300 million dollars into the exploration drive over the past 20 years.

Seven European, Asian, US and Canadian companies have dug tentative wells in the kingdom but with no success.

Jordan's daily oil needs are met by a consignment of 70,000 barrels per day trucked in from sanctions-hit Iraq under a special UN permit.

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Press Views al-Asad's Cairo Remarks

JN0609132895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Sep 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Raising the Level of Negotiations is the Disease, Not the Remedy," TISHRIN notes the attention given to the statements and assertions made by President Hafiz al-Asad during his joint news conference with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Cairo at the conclusion of the Syrian-Egyptian summit. The paper notes the president's statements on Arab conditions and the peace process, saying: The president said that the peace process is dormant, that Syria abides by international resolutions, and that the Israelis' demands are made outside the framework of international resolutions.

TISHRIN adds: As always, President al-Asad was very clear with his statements. He dotted the i's, with confidence and great understanding of the Israeli maneuvers and delaying tactics in the peace process. When Israel demands a higher level of negotiations on the Syrian track, it in fact is trying to complicate the peace process and avoid the obligations and requirements which this process dictates on Israel.

The paper adds: Israel, which continues to speak fine empty words about peace, has not yet pledged to implement these resolutions or announced its commitment to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights to beyond the 4 June 1967 lines and end all shapes and forms of occupation. Therefore, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed that the higher level of negotiations complicated matters and jammed, to a large extent, the road of the peace process. The remedy is not in raising the level of negotiations, because what Israel is demanding is the disease and not the remedy. This disease is caused by Israel's avoidance of the requirements of peace. When Israel tries to neglect facts, it exposes itself and its policy that seeks to maintain the occupied Arab territories and sabotage the peace process.

In an editorial headlined "Arab Interests Are Leader al-Asad's Major Concern," AL-BA'TH notes President Hafiz al-Asad's statements in which he said Arab action is always given special attention in every meeting he holds and is considered a firm principle in Syria's pan-Arab course. The general Arab interests, in all fields, constitute the basis and the goal to serve the Arab nation and achieve the legitimate aspirations of its masses to build their sought-after unity, improve their lot, protect their dignity, and assume an effective role in the world.

AL-BA'TH commends President al-Asad's precise and clear diagnosis of the diseases which influence the general Arab conditions and which change the Arabs from a potentially strong nation, rich with its material and human resources, into weak, submissive stateless people that fight and hate each other. These same diseases opened the doors of the homeland to foreigners to intervene in it, impose their hegemony, control its resources, and exploit the Arab energies to serve their own objectives.

AL-BA'TH cites an example which provides clear evidence of the harmful results reached by the Arabs. It says some Arabs have split from the ranks, violated the principle of coordination and solidarity, and rushed to arrive at partial separate peace deals, which allowed Israel to achieve what it has failed to achieve for scores of years and through scores of wars.

AL-BA'TH concludes by hoping that the Arab situation can be adjusted. As President Hafiz al-Asad has noted, this can be realized by abiding by joint Arab action and devoting all efforts to achieve it. The diseases are not incurable or fatal. The Arabs are a lively, renewable nation which can always surmount difficulties and overcome crises. The fact that some have split from the ranks and that others have succumbed does not necessarily mean that the nation should collapse or capitulate. Instead, it should provide a motive to activate people. This fact prompted President al-Asad to stress that he is confident about the future of the nation.

In a commentary entitled "The Basis for Peace," AL-THAWRAH notes President Hafiz al-Asad's statements during his recent visit to Cairo in which he said the peace process was based on international resolutions. The president also said that the major part of the Israeli demands are made outside the framework of these resolutions, and that Syria is committed to, and abides by the international resolutions, which it accepted.

AL-THAWRAH feels these statements underline the fact that Israel is the only party to blame for the failure of the peace process to achieve the required progress, especially on the Syrian track which is the key to this process, because it departed from these resolutions and opposed the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that the peace process opened new horizons to enable the region to achieve a genuine peace, based on implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy and its substance; namely, a complete Israeli withdrawal in exchange for peace. Instead of taking advantage of the opportunity to achieve genuine peace, Israel sought to torpedo this opportunity and all the other opportunities provided by the peace efforts and the positive Syrian position.

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AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: President Hafiz al-Asad stressed that the peace process has a specific basis — that is, the international resolutions. When Israel attempts to depart from these resolution by making demands that have no link to these resolutions, this means that its participation in the peace process was basically a doubtful participation.

Al-Asad's Moves on Iraq Developments Examined

MM0509131195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Salih Qallab: "Syria Moves To Take Charge of Iraqi Dossier; Numerous Reports Coming in About Contacts Between al-Asad and Saddam Husayn; Syria Thinks Itself Better Placed Than Jordan in This Respect"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — The recent fleeting visit paid by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam to Tehran, which ended with a joint statement clearly pointing to the likelihood of the emergence of a new axis in the region as a result of the Iraqi events, has marked the first actual move by Syria, after about a month of silence and a careful study of the conditions in Iraq following the surprise flight from Iraq by Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraqi former minister of industry and former chief of the Military Industrialization Organization, and his defection to Jordan.

Many of the circles and observers who have been following the development of events believe that Syria has embarked, since Husayn Kamil Hasan's defection to Jordan early last month, on a series of high-level contacts with Iraq and has been conducting contacts, which are still continuing, with Iran, Turkey, and Egypt, and that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Saddam Husayn have exchanged views indirectly on recent developments.

Syria's arduous move and the manner it chose for contacting Egypt, Iran, Turkey, and some other Arab countries point to Syria's belief that it has the most dominant presence in the Iraqi arena, and that if the Syrian president, who is renowned for dealing with surprises and drastic developments with calm nerves and without rashness, had maintained silence since Husayn Kamil Hasan's defection, this was in fact because he was busy organizing his cards well and making careful preparations for a comprehensive move, which is expected to take a public and clear form within the next few days.

According to information obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from numerous sources, following Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan President Hafiz al-Asad formed some sort of small-scale operations room under his personal control consisting of senior security, military, and political advisers, and during that period he received a large number of symbols of the Iraqi opposition abroad and read many secret reports about the latest developments in the Iraqi crisis, having taken personal charge of the Iraqi dossier.

President al-Asad seems profoundly convinced that it was necessary to unify the two flanks of the Ba'th Party, the Iraq flank and the Syrian flank, and consequently to unify the two neighboring countries. It was for this reason that he maintained his own channels, naturally behind President Saddam Husayn's back, with senior Iraqi officials in the state and the party and probably also in the Iraqi Armed Forces.

In this context, it is a well-known fact that Saddam Husayn, when he was Iraqi vice president, had accused his colleagues, whom he executed in 1979 in what looked like a collective massacre after some mock trials, of having made contacts with President al-Asad with a view to overthrowing the regime and establishing a Syrian-Iraqi unity state, in accordance with the famous national charter, which, as is known, was issued in 1978 under the presidency of the Syrian president.

President Hafiz al-Asad's constant interest in Iraq is due to his old mutual sympathy with the traditional historical leadership of the Ba'th Party, which later moved to Baghdad, despite the fact that he was one of those who led the coup against it in the 23 February 1966 move led by Major General Salah Jadid, who died in prison in Syria some time ago after over 23 years in detention.

Furthermore, Syria generally considers that it is the one with the best assets in Iraq and that, in addition to the constant interrelations between the ruling Ba'th Party branches in the two neighboring states, Syria enjoys a great deal of sympathy from the Iraqi Shiites who constitute about half the population of Iraq, as well as from the Kurds of northern Iraq, for whom the Syrian rear support constituted the true lifeline during their years of struggle with the Iraqi central government.

For this reason, Syria considers the Jordanian move, in its two aspects, public and nonpublic, in relation to the Iraqi crisis as an encroachment on its rights and believes that Jordan as a state and as a political regime is not equipped to play this serious role, on which the future of many of the political maps in the region will depend.

In fact, this development, whose successive episodes have fueled the raging fire in relations between Jordan and Syria, which have acquired the character of a real and actual crisis — although this has remained half-silent so far — since Jordan's unilateral embarkation

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on the peace process and its signing of its well-known peace treaty with Israel without informing or consulting Syria.

Immediately following Husayn Kamil's defection, Syria instigated the Palestinian opposition groups centered in Damascus to issue a statement denouncing the Jordanian action. Amman, which did not attempt to contact the Syrian leadership as it did with many Arab capitals far and near, understood that the statement represented a Syrian position and not a Palestinian opposition stance.

In view of all this, Jordan is truly worried lest it fall between the jaws of the Syrian-Egyptian pincer, should a new axis develop as a result of the Iraqi events, comprising Syria, Egypt, Iran, and Turkey, particularly if this alliance were to open lines of contact with President Saddam Husayn and instigate him to close his country's borders with Jordan after opening them with Iran and Syria.

It is certain that Jordan will be facing real difficulties should its relations with Syria, Iraq, and Egypt deteriorate further. These expected difficulties could go beyond trade and economic relations to security matters due to Jordan's long borders with Iraq and Syria which are difficult to control and due to the concentration of the Palestinian rejectionist organizations in Damascus, which are spreading into the Jordanian arena.

It should be pointed out in this regard that Syria might find itself obliged, under the pressure of its sense of isolation and the drawing up of Iraq's political map behind its back, to open up to President Saddam Husayn himself and seek common factors with the man who maintained animosity toward it and toward whom it maintained animosity over a period of about three successive decades. Syria shares even with the present regime in Iraq a number of concepts and convictions which it considers among its constant principles. These are:

First: To keep the regime in Iraq in the hands of the Ba'th Party, which, despite all the historical and hard-to-resolve conflicts between the two countries, has remained the link binding the two neighboring countries and the Syrian and Iraqi presidents.

Second: To reject any attempt to topple the regime in Iraq through an outside invasion, irrespective of whether this invasion takes place under the banners of the new or the old Iraqi opposition, and whether it is an overt or covert invasion. Syria believes that any regime that assumes power in Iraq through a foreign invasion will be oriented against Syria and will create numerous problems for it in the future.

Third: To confront any attempt to harm Iraq's integrity and prevent the establishment of any Kurdish state in northern Iraq, an infection which would inevitably spread to Syria, Iran, and Turkey in due course.

In conclusion, it is evident that Syria has allied itself with Iran and Turkey and has reached an understanding with Egypt and that it has gone into action to wrest the Iraqi card from the hands of Jordan and the United States. It is certainly capable of doing much, or at least creating obstacles, that is if it does not get preoccupied with the question of the long-range missiles which cropped up recently and if it does not get sucked into internal Lebanese affairs, which are developing into a crisis on the eve of the presidential elections.

Highlights of Iraqi Minister's Remarks on al-Asad

JN0609124095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Sep 95

[Thana' al-Imam report from Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the Syrian Government newspaper TISHRIN highlighted a statement by Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf. He said that President al-Asad's remarks in Cairo on the defection of Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, are appreciated because President al-Asad dealt with this issue in an objective, balanced way.

The Syrian president showed a lack of interest in Husayn Kamil Hasan's defection and noted that the media gave the issue unwarranted coverage.

Western diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital said that al-Sahhaf's statement and Syria's highlighting of this statement could be an indication of a Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement, whose features and dimensions are unclear.

'Pressure' Felt Over U.S.-Iraq Developments

MM0509151695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Sep 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Damascus and Tehran See Iraqi Developments as U.S. Pressure on Them"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Informed sources in Damascus have announced that Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's reply to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's message is of the utmost importance in view of the issues it dealt with concerning the situation in Iraq, the resistance in Lebanon, and the peace process in the Middle East. The Iranians' view is that the developments in Iraq and the U.S. movements are putting pressure on Syria and Iran.

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There also seems to be a similarity of views concerning the Lebanese Hizballah's shift toward political action following the peace negotiations' success.

Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam returned from Tehran yesterday after a lightning visit during which he conveyed a message from Syrian President al-Asad to President Rafsanjani and received a reply which he, in turn, conveyed to the Syrian president before his departure to Egypt for his summit meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The political sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria and Iran, following Khaddam's talks with President Rafsanjani and senior Iranian officials, voiced their concern regarding foreign interference in Iraqi affairs and stressed the necessity to safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity. This emphasis will be highlighted during the forthcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran, and Turkey preceded by a meeting between Syrian, Iranian, and Turkish experts next Tuesday [12 September] in Esfahan.

The sources added that Khaddam had discussed with the Iranian leadership the position of the Iraqi opposition, which is preparing for an enlarged meeting to be held in London 9 September. In recent months Damascus has been an important center for Iraqi opposition forces and the meeting point for both fundamentalist and nationalist tendencies, which Iraqi opposition circles believe are a must for any stable regime in Iraq, in conjunction with an adjustment in the size of the Kurdish faction within the opposition.

The sources indicated that Lebanese Hizballah, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), and Palestinian opposition forces were discussed during the Tehran talks. Syria believes that as long as there is occupation of territories and deprivation of rights, the resistance in Lebanon and in the occupied territories has the right to play its part in the defense of the land and rights. It also believes that only peace can put an end to the resistance phenomenon.

The sources say that Syria has committed itself to the U.S. Administration's wishes to assimilate Hizballah's military status into Lebanese parliamentary political life, but this would be after the signing of the peace agreement. It may be possible that the fixed strategic relationship which binds Syria and Iran stems from compatibility with the Syrian position and the concept of peace. The two countries believe that Hizballah, in time of peace, will change into a political party with influence in the Lebanese arena.

The informed sources point out that Iran seems to have put its weight behind Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement [IJM] in the occupied territories during the last few years, as an alternative to the situation in Lebanon after completion of the peace process. This is what made Rabin accuse Damascus of sheltering Hamas and IJM leaders, in view of the relationship between Damascus and Tehran. Washington warned Damascus implicitly yesterday against sheltering leaders whom the U.S. Administration described as terrorists. Some Syrian-U.S. circles have said that Israel's conditions in future negotiations will require Syria to abandon the Palestinian opposition and deport its symbols from its territory.

Iran has been trying to consolidate Islamic tendencies in Israel and the Palestinian territories, to put a halt to the resistance in Lebanon along Israeli withdrawal lines, and to involve the resistance tendency in the political game. Iran has reaffirmed its support for the Syrian viewpoint on the interrelation of the Lebanese and Syrian tracks.

The Iranians believe that developments in the situation in Iraq and U.S. moves in that respect represent an attempt to put pressure on Syria and Iran. Iranian sources say that Washington is intent on bringing about a fundamental change in the Middle East, to provide new facts which would help complete the peace process and prepare new geographical changes in the region.

The information bureau of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq announced that Khaddam had met with the scholar Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, head of the assembly, in Tehran, and that they had discussed developments in the region in general and the situation in Iraq in particular.

Al-Ahmar Reiterates Peace Stand at Symposium

JN0609180895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, inaugurated the second data symposium this evening under the slogan: "Data in the service of comprehensive development." The symposium is organized by the National Data Center on the occasion of its fourth anniversary. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Ahmar delivered a speech at the inauguration ceremony, which he began by conveying to the participants the greetings of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, sponsor of science and scientists and builder of modern Syria, and his wishes that the symposium will achieve its aspired pan-Arab goals. [passage omitted]

The comrade assistant secretary general then reviewed the Arab and international situation and developments in the peace process in our region. He asserted that Syria's

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position vis-a-vis this process is clear and well known; it is based on international legitimacy, the implementation of Security Council resolutions, and the exchange of land for peace. Syria, he said, has emphasized its eagerness to render this process a success and to enable it to achieve its goals of just and comprehensive peace that would return rights to their rightful owners, restore the occupied territories, achieve the full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon, and ensure security and stability for all. All this stems from Syria's strategy, which considers peace a strategic option. If the peace process is currently stalemated and obstructed, as was pointed out by President Hafiz al-Asad, then this is due to Israel's intransigent stand, its failure to commit itself to withdrawal from the occupied territories, and its disavowal of the legitimate Arab rights.

Concluding his speech, al-Ahmar called on the participant researchers and scholars to unite their efforts and to cooperate to arrive at a common formula that would keep up with information technology and effectively stimulate a better performance for the sake of further development and advancement. He also called on them to support the National Coordination and Cooperation Data Committee with the aim of activating the national data network. Al-Ahmar thanked all those working in the field of data in our Arab world and in the National Data Center. [passage omitted]

Al-Zu'bi Confers With Bahraini, Yemeni Ministers

JN0609190795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Bahraini Trade Minister Salih al-Salih and his delegation at 1315 today. The meeting was attended by Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the Bahraini ambassador in Damascus. Al-Salih conveyed the greetings of Bahraini Prime Minister Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah to Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who requested the Bahraini minister to convey similar greetings to the Bahraini prime minister. Talks centered on trade cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi also received Dr. Ahmad Ifandi, Yemeni supply and trade minister, and his delegation at 1200 today. The meeting was attended by the Syrian charge d'affaires in Sanaa and the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus. Dr. Ifandi conveyed the greetings of Yemeni Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani to Mahmud al-Zu'bi, who asked the Yemeni minister to convey his greetings to the Yemeni prime minister. Talks focused on trade cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, received Ahmad Ifandi, Yemeni supply and trade minister, who is visiting Damascus along with his delegation to attend the Damascus International Fair.

Talks during the meeting revolved around economic activities and ways to enhance relations between Syria and Yemen in economic and trade areas. The two ministers then held expanded talks on relations, spheres of cooperation, and ways to boost them. They also agreed to form a joint Syrian-Yemeni committee for economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Nadim 'Akkash, minister of supply and internal trade, this afternoon discussed with Dr. Muhammad Ifandi, Yemeni minister of supply and trade, spheres of trade exchange between the two fraternal countries and ways to enhance trade relations. 'Akkash expressed Syria's readiness to cooperate and coordinate with Yemen and to supply it with surplus Syrian products.

For his part, the Yemeni minister voiced hope that the two sides would hold joint meetings at the official and business levels to define the commodities both fraternal countries need, stressing that the two countries have a large prospect of cooperation and trade exchange.

Official Discusses Trade Ties With Yemeni Minister

JN0609200495 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 6 Sep (SANA)—Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, today received Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Ifandi, Yemeni minister of supply and trade, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by the Yemeni ambassador in Damascus and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Sanaa. Talks dealt with the current relations of trade cooperation between both fraternal countries and ways to promote them.

Al-Ahmar Receives Tunisian Foreign Minister

JN0609192395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], this morning received Habib Ben Yahia, Tunisian foreign minister and member of the Political Bureau of Tunisia's Democratic Constitutional Assembly [DCA].

Talks during the meeting dealt with the relations of cooperation between the ASBP and the DCA as well as the two parties' Arab and international relations and

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the importance of bilateral cooperation in a way that serves the interests of their peoples and achieves the Arab nation's supreme interests.

Al-Ahmar stressed the ASBP's position on pan-Arab causes and its militant role in serving these causes. He emphasized the importance of dialogue and consultations between both parties in the two fraternal countries as well as the exchange of experience between them in a way that serves the Arab struggle to achieve the nation's pan-Arab objectives.

Talks also dealt with the Arab situation in general and developments in the peace process which is suffering from stalemate and dormancy on the Syrian track due to the Israeli demands which violate the bases of the peace process.

The Tunisian minister stressed his country's support for Syria's positions on the peace process as well as its appreciation of this Syrian stand which expresses the Arab conscience and defends the Arab rights.

He also stressed the need for consultations and cooperation among Arabs to confront the challenges posed by the hostile forces, led by Israel which wants to benefit from the repercussions of Arab differences and deepen them in a way that achieves its schemes to undermine Arab rights.

Industry Minister Meets With Sudanese Counterpart

JN0609195095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Industry Minister Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din this morning received Sudanese Industry Minister Badr-al-Din Sulayman in the presence of the Sudanese ambassador in Damascus and a number of concerned directors at the Industry Ministry.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the importance of Arab and bilateral cooperation in the field of industry. The two sides agreed to send a technical group from the weaving and textiles sector to Sudan to study the possibility of providing Syrian experience and training Sudanese personnel in this industry.

Dr. Nizam-al-Din discussed the Syrian industries and their specifications as well as the possibilities of exportation. He also explained the characteristics of Investment Law No. 10 and emphasized the public sector's role in enhancing the Syrian national economy.

For his part, the Sudanese minister expressed his country's desire to benefit from Syria's experience in the field of industry, particularly its advanced and reputable weaving and textiles industry.

Radio: Israel Blamed for Stalled Peace Process

JN0609152195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1134 GMT 6 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Syria has frequently said that the one who wants peace will search for the elements of peace, and that the one who wishes to achieve peace will work for providing the elements of peace.

This Syrian talk is inseparable from action. Syria called for a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy and the land-for-peace formula. It accepted the U.S. initiative which was the basis for the Madrid conference. This initiative was founded on international legitimacy and on the need to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The peace Syria seeks is the peace sought by the international community. However, the peace Israel wants is its own peace whose form and content conflict with international will and with the resolutions of the international community.

Four years after its start, the peace process has not thus far called for optimism, and it is even dormant now. This is due to the fact that the Israeli demands contravene international resolutions. By committing itself to the peace process within the framework of the international resolutions, Syria is eager to safeguard the peace process and keep it on the path that leads to the aspired objective.

The Syrian position, however, faces an Israeli position that does not show any desire to achieve a just peace. This is because Israel has thus far not frankly accepted the Security Council resolutions and has not shown any readiness to withdraw fully from the occupied Arab territories. Events have proven that Israel does not commit itself even to the agreements it drafts and signs. Moreover, Israel did not commit itself to the Oslo agreement about which the Israeli foreign minister said: We were negotiating with ourselves.

Moreover, Yitzhaq Rabin's statements on Jerusalem are a clear proof of the Israeli position on the agreements it drafts and on peace as a whole. Israel wants peace, land, security, and domination at the same time.

A just and comprehensive peace cannot be achieved in the region if it is not based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and on implementing the

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relevant UN Security Council resolutions — namely, Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

Syria emphasized its eagerness for a successful peace process and its eagerness to achieve its objectives to realize a comprehensive solution that will give everyone his dues, return the occupied territories to their owners, and provide security and stability to all.

As President Hafiz al-Asad said, the peace process is dormant because Israel did not commit itself to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. Israel tried to circumvent these requirements to impose and dictate the peace it wants — namely, continuing its occupation of the Arab territories and imposing the fait accompli which will secure Israel's domination and hegemony over the region. This conflicts with the simplest bases of justice and dignity and also contravenes international consensus regarding establishing a real, just, and comprehensive peace.

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Afghanistan

Protesters Storm Pakistani Embassy After Shooting

LD0609195095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today Kabul city witnessed a major protest [words indistinct]. The protestors vigorously denounced Pakistani interference in the country's western regions.

A Bakhtar correspondent reports that today thousands of people of Kabul including men, women, elders, youths, workers and students carried out a major protest denouncing intervention in the countries western provinces by Pakistan's intelligence service. The protestors expressed support for the Islamic State of Afghanistan and chanted slogans against Pakistan's intervention and in support of a united Islamic Afghanistan.

The protestors held a meeting in front of the Pakistan embassy in Kabul and then started a demonstration. At this time an employee of Pakistan's embassy fired at the demonstrators using an automatic (? weapon) killing a student of the Naderiya high school — Badroddin son of Muslim — and injuring several others.

The angry and nervous people who had tremendous hatred against Pakistan's interference, attacked the embassy and beat the security officers and men who stood up against them. The demonstrators entered the embassy and got hold of the killer who was a low rank employee of Pakistan's embassy and started to beat him up.

Mohammad Yunus Qanuni, acting minister of defense and head of the security commission, today at a news conference said: In order to prevent a potential clash, the security forces set up two security belts around the embassy, but the anger of the demonstrators was to such an extent that they attacked the security forces after the firing by an employee of the Pakistan embassy, as a result of which 13 members of the security commission and 15 demonstrators were injured. [passage indistinct]

Mohammad Yunus Qanuni said: [?Six] members of the embassy including the ambassador sustained minor injuries [words indistinct] and a low rank employee of the embassy was killed in this clash.

The Head of the Security Commission said: [words indistinct] the security forces have carried out their duty properly but the anger of the people was to such an extent that one could not stop them.

The Bakhtar correspondent adds: In this clash a number of domestic and foreign reporters were also injured including the reporter of Radio/TV [word indistinct] who sustained a knife injury. As a result of the clash and in the course of the demonstrators'attack, a fire broke out in the courtyard of the embassy seriously damaging the embassy buildings.

In order to prevent a further expression of anger, the security forces called in the army to the scene who managed to restore the security of the embassy. The embassy employees were taken to safe places and those wounded were taken to hospitals.

The people's demonstration against Pakistan took place in the background of the ISA's statement on Pakistan's open intervention in the western provinces of the country and disruption of the situation in these provinces, broadcast last night. [passage omitted]

Radio Assails Pakistan's Involvement in Fighting

LD0609233795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Sep 95

[Bakhtar commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan must be introduced to the world as an aggressive country. Here we see that Pakistan's aggression and intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is exceeding the limits of an ordinary intervention and has turned into an all- out aggression against the people and the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA]. If up to yesterday Pakistan was training and arming the so-called Taleban group and dispatching them to Afghanistan to secure Pakistan's evil and adventurist objectives, today Pakistan, without any shame or dignity, is dispatching to Afghanistan the ISI militarists within the composition of the foreign agents that is the Taleban group and thus wants to realize its aggressive objectives. Pakistan, with stubbornness, has provided the cause of fighting and insecurity in our country for the past three years and finally, by creating and setting up the Taleban group, has embarked on an open and direct intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

For example, the seizure of Herat city and some other provinces of the southwestern zone by a number of Pakistani militia under the instruction and command of Colonel Amam and Major Gul — ISI's officers, is proof of this claim.

The (?fall) of the southwestern zone of Afghanistan is taking place on the basis of a predetermined military plan and military program of dispatching regular soldiers to the region worked out by the Pakistani aggressors.

The hellish ISI of Pakistan, in collaboration with the Taleban group who are a subordinate group without any will or political thought, has embarked on a large scale military operation in the southwestern zone of our

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country. The ISI has provided the fuel for the fire of fighting by dispatching supplies of fuel, ammunition and armed men from Quetta to Kandahar.

As mentioned in the minister of state for foreign affairs of Afghanistan message addressed to Butrus Butrus-Ghali, secretary general of the United Nations, unfortunately, Pakistan has not only failed to take a step toward cooperation and goodwill, but by using various political and military pretexts, has dragged the war in Afghanistan to a dangerous point; and has sent their stooges named Taleban to seize a section of the country's southwestern zone.

It is now up to the United Nations and other authorities [words indistinct] of the international community to stop these open interventions and to prevent the fighting in gaining broader dimensions which increase further the suffering of the Afghan nation.

In utilizing all available means, the ISA will stop all foreign intervention and any likelihood of the country's disintegration. The government of Pakistan must know that the Afghans are the very nation who did not bow to the greatest satanic powers such as the British or the Soviets. The Afghan nation would never rest vis-a- vis the Pakistan's interventions and threats who themselves have countless problems inside their own country.

It is better for the Pakistani authorities to think again and, instead of aggression to the sanctity of an independent and free country, to find a cure for the pain of their own nation. Otherwise, as history has proven, the Afghans always set aside all differences when facing foreign aggression and all together with one hand and one voice stand up against the aggressor.

Foreign Office Confirms Fall of Herat to Taleban

BK0509095395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Sep 5 (AFP) — The Pakistani foreign office on Tuesday [5 September] confirmed the fall of the key western Afghan city of Herat to the Taleban student militia.

"Herat is in the hands of Taleban," a foreign office spokesman told AFP.

The city had been held by forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani and the spokesman said there was no information about Isma'il Khan, the provincial governor and a close ally of Rabbani.

Afghan sources in Iran said Isma'il Khan and between 300 and 600 of his troops had fled to Iran and taken refuge at the eastern border point of Dogharun.

"We have checked with relevant sources who said the city fell around midnight last night," and the governor fled, the spokesman said.

In the northwestern city of Peshawar, which borders Afghanistan, Taleban official Hashim Khan told AFP that the group took control of Herat early Tuesday.

Hashim Khan said the group's information was that Isma'il Khan had fled the city.

Officials Reportedly in Iran After Herat's Fall

LD0609155995 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After capturing Shindand air base, the Taleban have taken control of Herat, an important base of the coalition administration in the west of the country. The fall of Herat to the Taleban is the second blow to the coalition by the Taleban. The fall of Herat has been confirmed by international sources and the administration itself. Isma'il Khan [governor of Herat]], Dr. Abdurrahman, Dr. 'Abdollah, Sayd Nurollah Emad [agriculture minister], Mohammad Sediq Chakari [minister of borders], and other officials have fled to the Taybad area in Iran. It is said that those people were sent to Herat to thwart a Taleban attack on the city. However, their efforts failed to produce a result. The report adds that now the Taleban are controlling all the installations and military units in Herat city.

HCC Forces Claim Capture of Feyzabad, Provinces

LD0609140595 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shortly after mojahedin from the Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] joined the forces of the High Coordination Council [HCC], Feyzabad, capital of Badakhshan, and Badghis and Bamian provinces came under the control of the HCC. A responsible HCC source told our correspondent that the HCC forces cleared Qal'eh-ye Naw, capital of Badghis, and the Bamian capital of armed men belonging to the Supervisory Council. Basir Khaled, a famous Jam'iyat-e Eslami commander, joined the HCC forces (?two) days ago, and yesterday the HCC forces entered Feyzabad.

After capturing those provinces the HCC seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition and took dozens of coalition administration supporters prisoner. The report adds that the HCC forces are continuing their mopping-up operations in other areas which are still controlled by the coalition administration.

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The coalition administration men are losing morale and are establishing contacts with the HCC. God willing, very soon Konduz and Takhtar provinces will also be captured by the HCC forces.

Troops Ready To Join Taleban in Attack on Kabul

BK0609081595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Sept 6 (AFP) — Some of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's own commanders are ready to switch sides and join the Taleban in an assault on the capital Kabul, a spokesman for the Islamic militia said Wednesday [6 September].

The offer comes only 24 hours after Taleban forces captured the key western Afghan city of Herat.

"Commanders in Paghman have asked us to move into the area" 15 kilometers (nine miles) west of Kabul, Taleban spokesman Hashim Khan told AFP.

The area is controlled by Rabbani's ally, Rasul Sayyaf who heads his own Ittehad-e Eslami party.

The offer to cooperate with Taleban in an attack on Kabul was made through Sayyaf's commander Toofan (eds one name), he said.

Sayyaf himself left his Paghman stronghold and arrived in Kabul Tuesday with his entire family, while his close aide Ahmed Shah moved his family to the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar, Khan said.

But Khan said the Taleban leadership was in no hurry and had advised against rushing into a new alliance in Paghman.

He said the Taleban wanted a full assessment before any assault on Kabul which would most likely come from Maidan Shahr, 30 kilometers (18 miles) southwest of the capital.

"I think an attack on Kabul would take some time," he said.

Khan said pro-Rabbani forces panicked after the Taleban entered the key western city of Herat on Tuesday after capturing the major air base of Shindand last week.

Other Afghan sources in radio contact with Taleban said Herat was peaceful Wednesday and people in the city had "welcomed" the change. They said the city's economy had been badly handled by provincial governor Ismail Khan who had now fled to Iran.

Khan described as "completely wrong" Afghan government's claims that Pakistan was financing and training the Taleban militarily.

"Whenever they suffer military reverses, they accuse foreign powers" of interefering in Afghanistan, he said.

Reports from Kabul Wednesday said that following Afghanistan's denunciation of Pakistan hundreds of demonstrators had attacked the Pakistan embassy seriously injuring three staff and leaving the building a smouldering wreck.

More than 1,000 people chanting slogans against Pakistan, stormed the building, witnesses said.

Forces Reportedly in 'Raging' Battle Near Kabul

LD0609143795 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Sept. 6, IRNA — Battle between forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani and Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] is raging in Sarowbi region, 60 km east of Kabul, Afghan sources said here Wednesday [6 September].

The sources said that with escalation of fighting, positions of Hekmatyar's forces were on the verge of falling to government troops. However, this claim has not been confirmed or denied by independent and impartial sources.

Sources close to Khalili wing of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], that is opposed to the Kabul government, claim that government forces have suffered a defeat in Bamian province. The sources declined to say when and how forces under command of Khalili have recaptured Bamian.

Meanwhile, sources close to Akbari wing of Wahdat party refuted as "baseless" the claim of Bamian's collapse and said forces loyal to the Akbari wing had seized the province a month ago. A source close to the Akbari wing announced here Wednesday that he had received a message from Bamian, indicating that calm and stability prevailed all over the province.

Meanwhile, the spokesman for General Dostam's National Islamic Movement claimed that forces under command of the Uzbek general have captured Targhandi, 50 km from Afghanistan-Turkmenistan border. Dostam's forces earlier claimed that they had captured Badghis province. Pro-Rabbani sources have neither confirmed nor denied the claim of Badghis province being fallen to General Dostam's forces.

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India

Spokesman Appeals for Release of Kashmir Hostages

BK0609161495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir valley, efforts are continuing to reestablish contact with the abductors of four foreign tourists, who have undergone 65 days in captivity. An official spokesman in Srinagar again appealed to the militants to release the hostages, keeping in view the agony of the families of the kidnapped tourists and worldwide condemnation of their uncalled for act.

Report on Concern Over Hostage Contact, Weather

BK0709061895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0556 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Report by Suriner Oberoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Sept 7 (AFP) — Indian officials expressed concern Thursday [7 September] over a break in contact with the kidnappers of four western tourists in Kashmir and worsening weather in the mountains where they are believed to be held.

Kashmir government officials in this state summer capital said the last communication with the abductors, the Muslim separatist group Al-Faran, had been on Monday through intermediaries.

"There has been no contact since then," an official said, adding that the lapse in contact with Al-Faran had sparked some concern among the authorities.

A Kashmir government spokesman told reporters at a briefing here Wednesday that "there were gaps in the contacts previously also, but of late the contact was on an everyday basis."

Indian officials said meanwhile that the group of nearly two dozen heavily armed guerrillas holding the two Britons, an American and a German may move the hostages further south to escape the onset of winter.

"We are worried about the cold in the area," an official said on condition of anonymity. "We have information that the militants may shift to the Doda mountains (of southern Kashmir) where it is warmer."

Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, and American Donald Hutchings, 42, were kidnapped on July 4 near the Kashmir trekking resort of Pahalgam, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of here.

German Dirk Hasert, 26, and Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, were seized in the same area four days later. Ostro was beheaded by the kidnappers last month and a note found on his body warned that the other hostages would meet the same fate if the Indian government failed to release 15 Muslim militants from prison.

The Indian authorities believe the hostages are currently being held at an altitude of more than 10,000 feet (3,000 meters) in the Himalayas in an area where shepherds graze their flocks.

The Guardian newspaper reported Thursday that nomadic shepherds had sighted the militants and the hostages on several occasions and had alerted the Indian authorities.

It said the shepherds, who are preparing to move their flocks to the plains ahead of the winter, had expressed fear for the lives of the four men and had urged the Indian authorities to mount a rescue operation to free them.

The Indian authorities have ruled out releasing Muslim militants from prison in exchange for the hostages and said a rescue operation would pose a danger to the lives of the captives.

The shepherds, known as "bakrwals, or goat people, were also quoted as saying that the kidnappers included members of the same group which abducted two British tourists in the Pahalgam area a year ago.

The two Britons were released unharmed after 17 days in the hands of guerrillas from the Harkat-ul-Ansar separatist outfit, which includes dozens of Afghan mercenaries in its ranks.

Indian officials allege that Al-Faran, a previously unknown group, is actually Harkat-ul-Ansar but the Harkat has denied having any links to the kidnappers and has urged them to free the hostages.

The Muslim separatist drive in Kashmir, India's only Muslim- majority state, has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Minister Blames Pakistan for Tourists' Kidnapping

BK0409033995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has blamed Pakistan for the continuing terrorism in Kashmir. In an interview to a satellite television network in Madras yesterday, he said that Pakistani hand was very much evident in recent kidnapping of foreign tourists. The minister said the government is taking all steps to bring back normalcy in Kashmir. He said the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, is personally supervising the developments there.

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Bhutto's Remarks at Beijing Conference Criticized

BK0509160795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has strongly criticized Pakistan for raising the Kashmir issue at the UN world conference on women in Beijing. Addressing the conference today, the leader of the Indian delegation, Mr. Madhav Rao Scindia, said Pakistan, instead of condemning and evolving measures to combat and eliminate terrorism against women, has chosen to politicize the world forum by raising the Kashmir issue. To set the record set, he said, Jammu and Kashmir, an integral part of India, has been the target of terrorism sponsored and sustained from across the border. He was referring to the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir's, remarks at the conference yesterday.

Mr. Scindia announced that India will ceaselessly strive to achieve social, political, and economic empowerment of women. He said the government is committed to carry out mother and child care program throughout the country.

Editorial on Clinton's Concern for Kashmir Hindus

BK0709102595 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 1 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Mr. Bill Clinton's Regret"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Congressman Tim Johnson wrote a letter to President Bill Clinton in June to seek humanitarian assistance for the Kashmiri pundits [brahmans]. Mr. Clinton answered that letter the other day. He expressed his sorrow that the Kashmir pundits have been forcibly displaced from their homes and haplessly settled elsewhere. He also expressed his regret at his country's inability to contribute actively to alleviating the plight of the Kashmir pundits, although he did not specify what he meant by "actively" contributing. The impression gathered from his letter suggests that by active contribution he meant U.S. intervention to settle the Kashmir issue between India and Pakistan. In his letter, he mentioned that India and Pakistan must negotiate directly to settle the dispute and that the United States is ready to render all possible assistance.

In reality, this show of U.S. sympathy for the Kashmiri pundits is just a facade. Its real intention is not to help the Kashmir pundits but to intervene in Kashmiri affairs. After all, what has prevented the United States from helping the Kashmiri pundits; from performing this noble act? Who has created any impediment? In any case, if Mr. Clinton is unable to bear the plight of the Kashmiri people, he should ask Pakistan to behave and stop fanning terrorist activities in the state. It is solely because of terrorism instigated at Pakistan's behest that the poor Kashmiri pundits have been forced to leave their homes and seek shelter elsewhere. Who is unaware of this fact? The world should not require any more evidence to prove Pakistan's criminal role in perpetrating terrorism in Kashmir — least of all the United States, which knows very well that more than a dozen terrorist gangs such as the Al-Faran are now active in Kashmir at the instigation of Pakistan.

It is certain that if the U.S. Administration could stop Pakistan from interfering in Kashmiri affairs, there would be no need for Mr. Clinton to bother about extending cooperation to help India and Pakistan resolve the Kashmir dispute, nor would there be any reason for him to shed hot tears over the plight of the Kashmiri pundits and express his regret at his country's inability to help them. This will only be possible, however, if Mr. Clinton genuinely feels sorry for the Kashmir pundits and comes out to help them on purely humanitarian grounds instead of using the cloak of diplomacy. It is not known when the U.S. Administration will abandon its deceitful diplomacy and sincerely help the Kashmiri people, but the Indian Government at least should care for the poor Kashmiri pundits. It is quite shameful for India to see a U.S. congressman appealing to the U.S. President to provide clothes, medicine, and even tents for shelter to the Kashmir pundits — its own citizens. This appeal is a reverberating echo of the fact that the Indian Government is doing nothing for the Kashmiri pundits.

'Parcel Bomb' Reportedly Injures 2 in Srinagar

BK0709115495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 7 (AFP) — The local correspondent of the British Broadcasting Corporation, the AFP photo stringer in Srinagar and another photographer were injured by a parcel bomb on Thursday [7 September], witnesses said.

Yusuf Jameel, 35, the Srinagar correspondent for the BBC and Reuters news agency, Mushtaq Ali, 30, the AFP photographer in Srinagar, and another local photographer, Habibullah Naqash, 30, were injured in the blast, they said.

All three were hospitalized and Ali's condition was said to be serious.

A BBC employee said a woman in a black robe and veil traditionally worn by Moslem women delivered a package to the BBC office here around 2:30 p.m. (0900 GMT) saying it should be given to Jameel.

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Jameel, who also writes for the Indian newspaper The Asian Age, returned to his office about 45 minutes later and the package exploded when it was opened by Ali, he said.

Police and paramilitary troops rushed to the BBC office following the blast.

Jameel, one of the most experienced local correspondents in strife-torn Kashmir, has received numerous threats in the past from both Kashmiri Moslem militant groups and the Indian security forces.

In 1990, he was arrested and detained for 24 hours. In 1992, grenades were thrown at his office and his home on separate occasions but did not cause any casualties.

A Moslem separatist drive in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state, has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Danish Minister Pays Official Visit to New Delhi

Arrives for 11-Day Visit

BK0609053995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Danish prime minister, Mr. Poul Rasmussen, arrived in New Delhi last night on an 11-day official visit. Mr. Rasmussen, who has chosen India for his first major official visit, was received by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khursheed. He will be accorded a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning.

Comments on Investment Agreement

BK0709002295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Danish prime minister, Mr. Poul Rasmussen, arrived in the capital last night on an 11-day official visit. He was given a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and his cabinet colleagues were present. Mr. Rasmussen later spoke to newspersons on Indo-Danish cooperation.

[Begin Rasmussen recording] An agreement will be signed to secure Danish investments and to strengthen the basis for our economic cooperation. And I think, we have something to do for good relations for each other in the years to come. [end recording]

The two countries are to sign a bilateral agreement on promotion and protection of investments this evening. Agreements will also be signed between the Danish Export Finance Corporation and the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India — the ICICI — for mixed credit line during the visit.

The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, today said the Pakistani leadership should follow the path of friendship and economic cooperation with India abiding by the Simla agreement. At the 30-minute meeting with the visiting Danish prime minister, Mr. Rasmussen, he said all problems between India and Pakistan could be sorted out through bilateral discussions and India was willing to do so on the basis of the Simla agreement. The two leaders also discussed issues related to economic policies and human resource development and the Danish prime minister briefed Dr. Sharma about the European Union integration process.

The president later hosted a lunch in honor of Mr. Rasmussen.

Signs Agreements; Rao Views Ties

BK0709040995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and Denmark have signed an investment protection agreement and the Foreign Office Consultations protocol to boost cooperation between the two countries.

The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and his Danish counterpart, Mr. Rasmussen, were present during the signing ceremony in New Delhi yesterday. The two leaders also held one-to-one talks. Later, delegations of the two countries joined the meeting where discussions were held on the entire gamut of bilateral relations.

Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Danish prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that India-Danish relations can be an antidote to an insecure and undernourished world accompanied by new conflicts ignited by ethnic, religious, and other rivalries and terrorism. Mr. Rao said that the Danish prime minister's visit is well-timed as India has embarked upon its economic reforms, registering appreciable growth. Mr. Narasimha Rao reaffirmed India's commitment to work for further strengthening India-Danish relations.

Earlier, addressing a select audience on the European Union and the follow-up to the Copenhagen Social Summit, the Danish prime minister, Mr. Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, favored the increase of multilateral aid to developing countries of at least one percent of global GNP. Pointing out that aid from Western countries has been steadily declining over the last few years, Mr. Rasmussen made a strong plea for strengthening multilateral institutions like the IMF and the World Bank.

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Comments on Visit, Offers Technology

BK0709103795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Danish prime minister, Mr. Poul Rasmussen, has emphasized the need for a soft security policy to benefit ordinary people in terms of the social and economic progress. Making an opening statement at a press briefing this morning, he said nearly five years after the end of the Cold War, the need for such a security policy is urgent. He said such a policy should involve the World Bank, the IMF, and other financial institutions to look into the issue of debt relief to the poor countries. He said the measures, means, and goals of such a security policy should be peace, democracy, and social and economic progress. Mr. Rasmussen said the decisions of the recent social summit at Copenhagen should be the guiding principles in the forming up of such a soft security policy.

In reply to a question, he said a solution to the Kashmir problem should be found in a peaceful and democratic atmosphere through negotiations among the parties involved. The Danish prime minister said that he had good and intensive talks with Indian leaders, including the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, on the issue of social development. He hoped that this first visit of his to India will be the beginning to a new era of relations between the two countries. He said his country favors deriving of mutual benefits from the new technology and research that is emerging in the world today. The Danish prime minister said that India with its highly skilled labor has the potential to be among the first four or five countries in terms of economic strength in the years to come.

On the question of India obtaining a permanent membership of the UN Security Council, he said that Denmark supports a regional representation in the UN, both from the Asian and African countries.

Earlier at a seminar, Denmark offered technology and capital for economic development in India. The visiting Danish prime minister, Mr. Rasmussen, said that his country is interested in cooperation with India in the fields of telecommunications, banking, electronics, and food processing. Speaking on the occasion, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, assured the Danish businessmen that India will provide an investment-friendly environment.

Air Chief Says Russia To Aid in MiG Modernization

BK0609121495 Jaipur RAJASTHAN PATRIKA in Hindi 28 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Aboard Indian Air Force plane Rajhans, 27 Aug—Under the Indian Air Force modernization program, a couple of MiG-21 'BIS' series aircraft will fly to Russia by the end of September.

Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul revealed that all 130 aircraft of the series will be modernized to increase their lifespan by at least 15 years. The air force chief was talking to newsmen accompanying him on his return from Vasco Da Gama in Goa, where he had gone to attend the commissioning ceremony of "Prahar", the Indian Navy's third missile carrier.

He said the talks with Russia to conclude an agreement for the aircraft modernizations are in the final stages, and it is hoped that both sides will sign the agreement within two weeks. According to the Air Force chief, the Russian manufacturers will first modernize the two aircraft, and the remaining 128 will be modernized at the Nasik unit of the MiG workshop and Bangalore's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

After the conclusion of the agreement for the modernization of the aircraft, the union government will separately sign contracts with Western suppliers for the purchase of other equipment. Under the agreement, Russia will propose to sell radars and other sophisticated electronic gadgets. The Air Force chief said the decision to send a couple of aircraft to Russia for modernization was made because being the original manufacturers know the aircraft well. He added that Indians will be sent to Russia to participate in the modernization program. This will enable us to modernize the remaining aircraft in India. India will import "some equipment" from Russia for this program, and the remaining equipment will either be manufactured indigenously or bought from Western suppliers.

The Air Force chief said all air forces in the world are being modernized. The modernization will reduce investment and prolong the life of aircraft. Air Chief Marshal Kaul disclosed that Russia has proposed to supply the most sophisticated "SU" aircraft, which cost between $30 to $50 million each. He said the government is considering the offer, but it is still in the preliminary stage.

When told that the Chinese Air Force is superior to the Indian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Kaul said they are also trying to replace their old aircraft with new ones. He said that even though the Sino-Indian border is currently peaceful, China could pose a serious threat over the long

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term. The Air Force chief expressed satisfaction at the progress of missile program in the country.

Defense Spending on Spying Gadgets Said Approved

BK0409105395 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 22 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by M. Ahmed]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Defense Ministry has given the go-ahead for a Rs [rupees] 136-crore Integrated Electronic Warfare Program for the Army, Navy and Air Force which will include a total overhaul of intelligence gathering, surveillance systems, jamming and counter-jamming.

The project will include both indigenous designs and the development of some components, besides import and concurrent engineering of foreign developed parts.

Official sources said the project had a two-year timeframe for it to be put in place. The project will depend upon satellite communication as the mainstay of data transmission and reception.

In addition other links like telephone and microwave will also be utilized.

One of the weakest links in Indian combat readiness is intelligence gathering and data processing.

Many units rely on old and antiquated systems of electronic intelligence gathering known more for their unreliability to the extent that their forward commanders use runners rather than risk an unsecured line being tapped.

The sources said the electronic intelligence — Elint — capability would depend upon the strength of potential adversaries. Task forces have been set up for every force to continuously monitor electronic warfare [EW] capability and recommend changes.

They said the Defense Research and Development Organization [DRDO] was insisting on transfer of technology of any Elint system the defense forces import. The DRDO labs would like to make requisite modifications so that security considerations were not compromised.

As part of the program, a complete assessment would be made of the present and future electrical, electronic and opto-electronic equipment systems of potential adversaries. The system would not just include passive EW capability, but also an offensive arm to deflect and destroy incoming missiles. It will be integrated with all strike weapons to provide real time intelligence to field commanders.

Iran

Minister Accuses U.S. of Seeking Control of Area

LD0609195595 Tripoli JANA in English 1617 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 6 — The Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has confirmed that America is actively seeking to stir trouble and conflict in the area to promote its aggressive goals by amassing further military machinery with the aim of controlling the area and containing it from all sides.

He added that America bears grudge and hatred for the nations of the area as a result of the influence of the Israeli lobby over the American decision.

He added that the provocations made by America by flexing its military muscles aim at the destabilization of peace and security in the area, in an attempt to steal the wealth and resources of these nations.

Commentary Says Mideast To Determine U.S. Elections

NC0509091195 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 26 Aug 95 pp 1, 12

[Commentary by F. Asef: "The Fate of the U.S. Presidential Elections Is To Be Decided in the Middle East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the transitional period in the new world order there have been manifestations of unpredictable behavior that have been extraordinarily strong in certain strategic areas in various countries. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had constantly repeated until the night of 12 January (the deadline for the ultimatum by the UN forces in Iraq during the Persian Gulf war) that "Moscow and Paris are constantly sending messages saying not to worry, as nothing will happen." After this Iraq was transformed into a scorched plane during Operation Desert Storm.

Currently, following the flight by Saddam's sons-in-law and daughters to Jordan, the West under U.S. leadership has again generated a massive wave of propaganda against Iraq. It would be worth seeing what are the factors that motivate the current U.S. attitude toward Iraq:

1. U.S. Presidential Elections:

Beginning in the month of Aban this year [23 October—21 November] the Democratic and Republican candidates will initiate their election campaign. In view of the social crises in the United States, Clinton, a Democrat, needs a dazzling success in foreign policy to win the presidential elections.

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2. Destruction of the Poles of Power in the Middle East:

In view of the above axis, from the vantage point of the White House, the most important issue facing the United States is the elimination of the poles of power, some of which are the legacy of the Cold War.

Iran, Sudan, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya and to a certain extent Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan—in view of the structure of their respective governments and stances—have naturally forged an undeclared front against countries such as Saudi Arabia, the shaykhdoms of the southern Persian Gulf, Kuwait, Egypt, and Israel. If the above alliance in the Middle East with its political, economic, and security arrangements does not mesh with U.S. interests—a prerequisite being the elimination of the anti-U.S. front—Israel's security, the free passage of oil from the region, and peace in the Middle East will be in danger. In addition, it may not be possible to resolve these problems until the next presidential elections.

3. The Formulation of the Dual Containment Policy:

In order to eliminate the above fronts, the White House believes that the Iraqi administration's fate could be clarified more swiftly if the movement to topple the government were expedited. Washington believes that even at the height of its weakness, Baghdad should endorse all the agreements regarding the Arab-Israeli talks so that none of the Arabs remain outside the peace process. Despite this, the expediencies of the U.S. presidential elections and the Middle East peace process dictate that only one of the two [Iran and Iraq] must be chosen.

There is no doubt that any approach to Iran will be postponed until after the elections. This is because the United States cannot simultaneously tackle both fronts and appease the international community as well. From the U.S. perspective, the reasons for tackling Iran are based on the following: Iran is the center of the export of Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East and North Africa. According to the White House, it supports terrorism, seeks access to nuclear capability, has issued an edict to kill Salman Rushdie, opposes the Middle East peace process, and is calling for Israel's obliteration from the map.

Strategy of an Approach to Iraq:

The United States believes that the issue of Iraq should be resolved before that of Iran as the benefit of doing so for domestic consumption is quite clear for Clinton.

It appears that U.S. strategy is based on the following axes:

1. Generating differences between Iraq and its neighbors.
2. Exerting pressure through the United Nations.
3. Promoting greater cohesion of the opposition.
4. Creating a rift in the Iraqi hierarchy especially in Saddam's family.
5. Depriving Saddam of foreign exchange earnings from the sale of oil to Jordan and isolating Baghdad from the Arabs and his European partners, namely, Russia and France. The United States believes that boosting pressure on Iraq will result in pessimism in Iraq and will isolate it from its European and Arab supporters.

From a sociopsychological point of view, if an individual, group, or government is isolated, the best way of extricating itself from isolation and of renewing its existence is to resort to belligerence. This is why, in light of the flight by Saddam's sons- in-law and his two daughters to Jordan and the simultaneous military maneuvers with Kuwait and Jordan, Washington wants the Baghdad administration to be overwhelmed with despondency and embark on some hasty or neurotic act to reactivate the Iraqi military machine against Jordan and Kuwait. This would enable the White House to boost its military presence in the region and take the necessary measures against Baghdad.

There is no doubt that the information obtained from the members of Saddam's family will be disseminated in Jordan and will help continue the embargo and UN and U.S. measures against Baghdad.

What the United States really wants, in addition to fissures in Saddam's family, is unrest among the people so that those who can stage a coup d'etat can be identified and the way paved for toppling the regime. Of course any popular unrest could result in fusing the splintered Iraqi opposition.

There is evidence to prove that the United States, to attain its objectives, will make diplomatic efforts to motivate the United Nations as much as possible to recognize the opposition at an opportune moment.

The UN spokesman in Geneva—blatantly interfering in Iraq's internal affairs—declared Saddam Husayn's half-brother Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who has allegedly joined Saddam's sons-in-law in Jordan, as the official Iraqi representative to the United Nations. Even though Iraq has denied this report, the hasty action by the UN spokesman indicates that the UN is anticipating the toppling of the Iraqi regime.

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Velayati Addresses Paris Talks on Bosnia 'Crisis'

NC0709080395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Sep 95

[News report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint session of the International Contact Group and the Organization of the Islamic conference [OIC] regarding the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina will begin in an hour in Paris.

Late last night, Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati left for Paris for participation in the session. Our correspondent spoke to Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati at the airport prior to his departure from Tehran.

Dr. Velayati commented on the Paris session and the Islamic countries' measures for assisting the Bosnian Muslims and said:

[Begin Velayati recording] As members of the OIC contact group, we hope that the talks that will take place at this session will be on the basis of a correct and reciprocal understanding of the country of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Islamic countries insist on upholding the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and oppose all plans which will result in the dismemberment of the country and destroy the sovereignty of the legitimate Bosnian government in a country which is a UN member.

In the near future, a joint session of the foreign and defense ministers of the OIC contact group member countries will be convened in Malaysia in order to assess ways and means for multilateral assistance, especially as regards defense, so that the Bosnian people can defend themselves. [end recording]

Further on Velayati Remarks

LD0709060995 Tehran IRNA in English 0548 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Sep. 7, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Thursday [7 September] morning to attend the joint meeting of the Contact Groups of the Western countries and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Speaking to IRNA at Mehrabad airport before leaving Tehran on Wednesday night, Velayati said the meeting is aimed at finding a solution to the Bosnian crisis.

He noted the contact groups held meetings at ambassadorial level earlier, however, he added, this time it would be held on Thursday at ministerial level upon a proposal by the French President Jacques Chirac.

Iran hoped the two groups would hold their talks on the basis of mutual understanding, Velayati said adding the Islamic countries stressed preservation of territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and were against Bosnia's partition.

Velayati said ministers of defence and foreign affairs of the Western and OIC Contact Groups are scheduled to hold a joint meeting in Malaysia in a near future.

The Iranian minister said the joint meeting was to provide all-out support for Bosnian people to defend themselves.

The OIC Contact Group includes Iran, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Senegal, Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan and Maghreb while the Western Contact Group includes France, Germany, Britain, the U.S., Spain and Canada.

Nateq-Nuri, Omani Offical View Regional Issues

NC0709070795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah conferred with the Speaker of the Islamic Majles Nateq-Nuri yesterday on the situation in the Persian Gulf region.

He stressed the need for resolving regional conflicts with the help of the countries in the region and expressed the hope that with the visit of the Omani parliamentary speaker to Tehran, bilateral relations will become stronger.

According to the Central News Unit, during this meeting the Speaker of the Islamic Majles expressed his appreciation for Oman's positive stance on regional and international issues. He deemed the common religious, regional, and cultural denominators between the two countries important factors for the broadening of Tehran-Muscat relations.

Referring to the presence of greater powers in the region, especially the United States, Nateq-Nuri described them as the source of instability and sedition. He stressed that regional countries should resolve their differences by themselves and expressed the hope that in the upcoming session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], the Omani government will convey this issue to other GCC members.

Omani Official Completes Visit 7 Sep

LD0709124695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of his trip to Iran, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-Abdallah, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, answered questions put to him

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on various issues by our correspondent this morning before leaving Tehran.

About the next Gulf Cooperation Council summit, which will be held in Muscat in the near future, he said: The outcome of that session will mean nothing but will consider the interests of all the countries in the region and the calm in the region, which will strengthen cooperation between those countries.

About the events in Iraq he said: The future of that country depends entirely on the views of the people of that country and no one else. He added: The world's media and international propaganda have overly magnified the flight of Husayn Kamil Hasan from Iraq to Jordan.

Confirming Iran's stance on the maintenance of regional security by the countries in the region, he stressed: The maintenance of peace in the Gulf will only be achieved through consultation and cooperation between its littoral states. He added: I believe that in meetings and talks between the officials of the countries in the region we can achieve calm and security in the region. I believe the time for achieving that is in the not too distant future.

Official Denies Trilateral Session Cancellation

LD0209144195 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 2 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran Sep. 02, IRNA — A foreign ministry official here Saturday [2 September] said that Tehran-Ankara-Damascus trilateral session on situation in Northern Iraq would difinately be held in Isfahan early September.

The Iranian official called as "baseless" a claim raised by the Turkish daily Hurriyet on Friday it was unlikely for the three countries to hold the session.

He reiterated that Iran, Turkey and Syria would meet in Isfahan on schedule.

The daily, quoting sources closely watching events in Northern Iraq, said because of Iran's and Syria's dissatisfaction with a meeting held between Iraq's rival Kurdish groups in Dublin, and attack on Iraq's Kuridstan Democratic Party (KDP) by Turkey's Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), it was very unlikely for the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Turkey to meet in Isfahan.

Commentary Addresses Legal Status of Caspian Sea

NC0309092495 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Aug 95 p 16

[Political commentary: "A Right That Is Not Open to Bargaining"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the news apparatuses affiliated to the CIA cited the Russian ambassador in Ankara as saying that Moscow is prepared to make a deal with Baku on the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

This report claims that Russia is prepared to reverse its previous stance on the legal status of the Caspian Sea in exchange for the Azerbaijani oil consortium using Russian territory to transport its oil.

Of the five countries on the Caspian Sea, Russia and the Islamic Republic of Iran have expressed the greatest sensitivity about the legal status of the Caspian Sea and are more eager than the others to define that status now that the former Soviet Union has collapsed.

The legal status of the Caspian Sea—which has now been overshadowed by the change in the new political map—is based on the treaties signed in 1921 and 1940 between Iran and the Soviet Union regarding shipping and utilization rights. However, changes in the countries bordering on the Caspian Sea, the largest lake in the world, with the addition of three new countries to the original two countries demands that further damage to this sea should be prevented. The aforementioned treaties stipulated utilization of the Caspian Sea on the basis of joint ownership rights.

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, haphazard utilization of the Caspian Sea fishery resources, neglect of its ecological conditions, and finally the agreements and oil exploration projects by some neighbors of the Caspian Sea countries have threatened the viability of the former Caspian Sea regime [preceding word in English] and raised doubts about it.

Perhaps the most important factor irritating the other neighbors was the Azerbaijani Government's oil consortium agreement with many Western oil companies. This agreement is diametrically opposed to the principle of cooperation among the Caspian Sea littoral countries, as it undermines the principle of good neighborliness and violates the concept of preventing exploitation by other governments. Such an agreement can also make the region the scene of political exploitation by countries from outside the region.

That is why the sensitivity of the regional governments and the concern of the signatories to the Azerbaijani oil agreement about this is not unreasonable. Rumors clearly indicate the aims of the rumor mongers. They

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are spread by the news agencies of those governments that wish to sow discord among the Caspian Sea littoral governments and to pave the way for their own political and financial benefit.

However, the legal status of the Caspian Sea is nonnegotiable and any action in this geographic region should not entail losses or damage for its neighbors.

Russia Confirms Bushehr Construction Commencement

LD0609180595 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Sept. 6, IRNA — Russia has confirmed starting to construct the first of three nuclear reactors in Iran, while vigorously rejecting U.S. claims that the project could be diverted for military purposes.

An official at the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry was quoted by the London Financial Times repeating that recent investigations by the International Atomic Energy Agency has again shown that Iran was not working on producing nuclear weapons.

"Not a single country has ever created nuclear weapons using nuclear power reactors," he said, contradicting repeated allegations from Washington, which have been made as part of its campaign to try to isolate Iran from the world community.

Technical experts have also ridiculed American claims made against Russia's supply of light-water reactors, being the same type which the U.S. is proposing to sell to North Korea.

Russian engineers are set to complete Bushehr power station started by German companies in 1974 when no such objections were raised.

Indonesian Envoy Says Islam Factor in Close Ties

LD0309085995 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept 3, IRNA — Common religion, Islam, is the most important factor which brings Tehran and Jakarta closer, said a senior Indonesian diplomat.

In an interview with the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, printed on Sunday [3 September], Indonesian Ambassador to Tehran Somitro said that Iran and Indonesia share many common factors which provide the necessary grounds for bilateral and regional cooperation.

Somitro added: "common religion, Islam, is the most important factor which brings Tehran and Jakarta closer."

He said, "Iran and Indonesia have identical views on vital issues such as human rights and women's affairs."

The Indonesian ambassador said cultures of both countries are based on quranic ethics, they are both active members of the Non- Aligned Movement (NAM), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

These internationally important organizations provide the required platforms for voicing common views of Iran and Indonesia, Somitro said.

Indonesia which became a republic on Aug. 17, 1945 hosts the largest Muslim population in the world with 85 percent of its 190 million citizens being Muslims.

Underlining the importance that NAM continues to play despite the end of the Cold War, Somitro said Nam had a different role while two superpowers existed and the developing countries organization provided the proper atmosphere for the third world which had pledged not to follow the policies of the existing power blocs.

"We now have only one so-called superpower and the third world needs NAM more than any other time if we want to be immune from big powers policy of hegemony," the ambassador said.

"NAM can play a vital role for an overall development of the third world through bilateral and multi-national cooperation," Somitro concluded.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Invited To Visit Bangladesh

LD0309085395 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept 3, IRNA — The visiting special emissary of Bangladeshi prime minister, Farooq Sobhan, here Saturday [2 September] submitted separate messages from president and prime minister of Bangladesh to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani inviting him to pay an official visit to the country.

Sobhan, who arrived here Saturday, said that for government and people of Bangladesh President Rafsanjani's visit would be a turning point in the history of Tehran-Dhaka relations.

The Bangladeshi official who is also the country's foreign secretary, said that there were many common bonds between the two Muslim nations to broaden political, economic, trade and cultural ties.

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Referring to the Bosnian crisis, Sobhan said Dhaka believed that all Islamic states should take joint measures to preserve Bosnian sovereignty and territorial integrity.

President Rafsanjani in response referred to the significance of Bangladesh as a large Muslim country and said there were ample potentials to promote bilateral ties.

Pointing to the critical situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, President Rafsanjani said it was an unprecedented incident in the contemporary era and regretted that no effective step has so far been taken by the so-called advocates of human rights to end the crisis.

The major obstacle on the way of solving the Bosnian issue, stressed the president, was that western powers were not willing to have an Islamic country, even so small, at the heart of Europe.

He expressed hope that Islamic countries would support Bangladesh's plan for the settlement of the Bosnian crisis.

Official Gives Guidelines on Presentation of News

LD0309131695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ali Larijani, head of the Voice and Vision Organization, addressed a meeting of the news editors and officials of the organization today. Elaborating on present social circumstances and the adverse propaganda by foreign media against Iran, Mr. Larijani urged all those involved in the media to deal more carefully with the propaganda plots of the world arrogance and said: The present circumstances of the revolution are most sensitive and the slightest negligence in carrying out of duties will be a great sin.

Referring to the fact that despite numerous difficulties extensive constructive efforts have been made in the country, Larijani said: The internal and external enemies are trying to portrait the Islamic government as weak by enlarging problems and thus undermine the system in the public opinion.

He described constructive criticism as one of the means to combat adverse propaganda and said: To shut our eyes to the virtues of the revolution and to see only the difficulties is to be unjust towards the efforts of the caring managers of the country.

He referred to the issue of providing information as an essential duty of the Voice and Vision Organization and stressed the need for increasing effort to expand and improve the quality of information put at the disposal of the public. He added: News must be purged of emotional and rhetorical analysis and the grounds for proper analysis must be paved for the people only through offering meticulous news and information.

Khamene'i: Media Must Increase 'Power of Analysis'

LD0409151495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting with the head of the Voice and Vision Organization [VVIRI] and the officials responsible for various political directorates of that organization, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, stressed the necessity for long-term planning and serious effort by VVIRI to deepen the Islamic wisdom and increase the power of analysis of the people.

Expressing satisfaction about the news and political sections of the VVIRI, the esteemed leader described as tangible and invaluable the progress made by the organization in terms of planning and implementation news bulletins and political programs.

He stressed the necessity for taking advantage of the correct literature of the Persian language in the various news bulletins of VVIRI. He said that for many people the news idiom is the criterion for writing and speech. He added: Incorrect or weak terminology should not enter the contents of VVIRI programs, particularly the news and political commentaries.

Referring to the fact that the general public ignored foreign radios, he stressed the necessity for further strengthening the people's trust in VVIRI.

He said the great Iranian nation was one of the world's political nations. He added: Today the people should obtain political depth, and the VVIRI plays a major part in that respect.

He stressed: The aim of the political activities of radio and television should be concentrated on increasing the people's power of analysis, for that important fact insured the revolution and the people in the confrontation with the suggestions and prejudices of the enemies.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Banking Seminar

LD0309170295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 3 Sep 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's president, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on Saturday September 2, in a meeting with the participants of the Sixth Islamic Banking Seminar, said: Banking without usuary in Iran is being inspired by the wise and luminous

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thoughts of the late Imam and is an essential and irrevocable necessity. Rafsanjani then added: banking devoid of usuary has received the consensus of the Ulemas [religious scholars] and experts as a principle policy ever since the victory of the Islamic revolution and this type of banking has managed to play a good role in the economic system of Iran.

Islamic banking in Iran could offer vast and useful services in aiding the major infrastructural plans, especially those of the First Five-Year Economic Development Plan. The system was employed after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in a decree by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul rest in peace, the Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Within the framework of such a banking system, presently 85 percent of liquidity of the country has been absorbed by the banks. The banks are using these cash reserves to implement important production projects, including building metros, cement factory, dams and roads and other construction projects. The success of the Islamic banking system in Iran and in other Islamic societies has gained the approval of International Monetary Fund, which introduced it as an effective system to the world's banks. This kind of banking has also been used in some other Islamic countries such as Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Swiss bank of UBS and so far many seminars and training courses have been held with other countries' experts to get an idea how the system works.

The Sixth Islamic Banking Seminar will be held on Monday till Tuesday, September 4 and 5, in Tehran. During the seminar major issues of Islamic banking in Iran and other countries will be discussed by the Iranian and foreign experts.

Oil Official on Installing Persian Gulf Platform

LD0309154895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1200 GMT 3 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first domestically produced oil platform was installed in the Bushehr Province. Here is an interview with the managing director of the Bushehr industrial- marine company about the production and installation of the platform. [video of interview shows the platform during its installation]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified official] The area that you see is the Foruzan oil region where we — that is the (?Sadra) land and marine company — are installing an oil platform. The production and transport of the platform has been completed by Sadra and we are busy installing it.

The platform is 54 meters long and is envisaged for four oil wells. It is being installed at a depth of 48 meters in the Persian Gulf in the Foruzan oil region.

It is the first time that such a platform is being launched and installed by Iranian experts. We are prepared to produce larger platforms. The installation of such platforms, which was a monopoly of foreign companies, will be done by ourselves and thus a great deal of foreign currency that used to be spent on such projects will be saved. [end recording]

Fixed Dollar Reportedly Hurts Automobile Prices

95IA0357B London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The freezing of the price of the dollar in Iran has had an effect on the buying and selling of domestic and foreign automobiles. The automobile trade in the country has been stagnant for several weeks. Automobile sellers in Tehran say that the market is slow and no one wants to buy automobiles. The market stagnation has naturally lowered prices. Experts have said that with the freezing of the foreign exchange rate, the average price of automobiles in Iran has decreased 30 to 40 percent. For example, the price of the 1374 [21 March 1995 - 20 March 1996] model of a Peykan automobile with 0 kilometers has dropped about 600,000 to 700,000 tumans to its current level of 3 million tumans.

According to the newly published newspaper AKHBAR, the price of the 1374 model of the Peykan 1600 with 0 kilometers is between 30 to 33 million rials [R], the Deluxe Peykan 2 Model 57 is between R11.5 million and R17 million, and the painted Peykan Deluxe Work Model 62 is between R13.5 million and R21 million. Likewise, the 1374 Peugeot GLX is between R65 million and R76 million.

The price of the 1993 Daewoo Espiro has been announced as between R65 to R74 million, and the price of the 1993 Daewoo Racer has been announced as between R42 and R65 million.

Iran Khodrow Company, builder of the Peykan automobile, announced: Since the Supreme Economic Council had not set the price of the Peykan, even though three months of the new year has passed, we set the price of the new Peykan ourselves at R31.5 million. Later the Economic Council announced the price of R29 million for Iran Khodrow Company's prior commitments, and this company was obliged to repay the excess, which was R2.5 million.

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Paper Reports 'Striking' Increase of Unemployment

95LA0363A London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Alireza Mahbub, secretary general of the Islamic Republic Worker's Home, said on Sunday 4 Tir [25 June] that during the last two years there has been a striking increase in the number of job applicants compared to the job opportunities.

He added that job applicants in some of the nation's cities are as numerous as they were in the entire country in the years 1360 to 1362 [21 March 1981 - 20 March 1984].

The experts say that if the economic stagnation continues, the labor market in Iran will face an explosion in the years to come. The decline in population growth rate seen in the last three or four years will not have that much effect on the increase in the number of job applicants in the mid-term, because the people who will be coming into the job market in the next 15 years have already been born.

Daily Answers Reader Question on Economic Policy

95LA0363B London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] In the column "Hello SALAM" in the newspaper SALAM (22 Khordad [12 June]), a reader asked: "In answer to a telephone message you wrote that if the former regime had continued, the nation's economic problems would have been much greater than they are now, but you did not give enough reasons to prove your point. Many individuals in society believe that under the policies of the former regime, there would have been greater growth, at least in terms of economic development. This is one of the most important issues discussed in recent years in various circles. Therefore, you should have given more careful reasoning in this regard."

We will print the answer from SALAM exactly as it was published and leave it to the reader to judge. SALAM wrote: "We still believe that the structure of the former regime was never appropriate for pursuing a program of economic development in the country. Even the Pahlavi regime, despite the increase in oil revenues in the years 1351 - 1356 [21 March 1972 - 20 March 1978], was unsuccessful in implementing its Fifth Five-Year Development Plan, and this reader can refer to the relevant reports. However, with a simple calculation, if you compare the nation's current oil revenues and buying power with those of the year 1356 [21 March 1977 - 20 March 1978], then you will have to see what would have happened if that regime were in charge now."

SALAM added: "Another point we must mention is, assuming that what this esteemed reader says is true (and it is not possible to confirm or refute it!), what model of development did that regime follow? Specifically, what were its goals in the cultural and social dimensions? Is it better for the stomach to be full while being the captive of others and one's passions? Naturally, in the shah's development model there was no place at all for human freedom, liberty, respect, and dignity. At best, it went no further than providing for full stomachs. Is this a desirable model?

"We think that a desirable development model must have two dimensions and it must take the happiness of people into account both in this world and in the next. While providing for the spiritual growth of human beings and valuing freedom and liberty, it should meet the necessary needs of life for everyone. We hope that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is moving along such a path, but we admit that we have not yet succeeded in designing, planning, and implementing such a model, although relatively valuable steps have been taken in some directions."

No doubt after this devastating retort, the reader of the newspaper SALAM was satisfied and will forget forever the "development model in the time of the shah."

Brigades Said To Conduct Anti-Riot Maneuvers

95LA0363C London KEYHAN in Persian 3 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] With the increase in the explosive burden of the population of Iran, the regime's military and urban maneuvers, whose goal is to terrorize the public, are also increasing. Following the military maneuvers in the south of Tehran and following the 'Ashura maneuvers held two weeks ago in East Azerbaijan, it was Rasht's turn. This was the scene last week for the three-day 'Ashura maneuvers involving "tens of thousands of men and women basijis."

These Azerbaijan maneuvers have become so routine that even the women basijis take part in the urban maneuvers. IRNA reports that the goal of these maneuvers is to preserve and establish order and security and to control sensitive points in the city of Rasht.

The 'Ashura brigades were created to put down public uprisings two years ago following uprisings that shook several Iranian cities.

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Pakistan

Reportage, Condemnation of Attack on Kabul Embassy

Radio Confirms Attack

BK0609112995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports received from Kabul say the Pakistan Embassy in the Afghan capital was attacked by more than 1,000 people today, during which some members of the embassy staff were seriously wounded. These reports say the embassy building was left as a smoldering wreck.

Further details are awaited.

'Mob Attack' on Embassy Condemned

BK0609154395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has condemned the mob attack on its embassy in Kabul today. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this evening, Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh said the mob entered the embassy premises, attacked the building and personnel, and set the building on fire. The foreign secretary regretted that the Kabul administration, despite the warning in advance, failed to protect the embassy. He said he had telephonic talks with Afghan Deputy Minister (Ghafoor Zai) and, according to him, 25 Pakistan Embassy personnel—including Ambassador Qazi Humayun—are in the hospital.

According to the Afghan minister, he visited the hospital and condition of the injured was out of danger. The Afghan deputy minister conveyed deep shock of President Borhanoddin Rabbani over the incident and said the president has set up a high-powered commission under the attorney general of Pakistan to conduct investigations into it.

Attack Condemned by Afghan Party

BK0709040395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] Afghanistan led by Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar has strongly condemned the attack and burning of Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul and the killing of some of the staff. In a statement from Peshawar, Hezb-e Eslami Spokesman G.R. Seyyed said the action is the work of those opposed to the brotherly relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Hamed Gilani, deputy leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, recalled that it was Pakistan that helped the Afghan people in their struggle against the aggression of the former Soviet Union. He added that Pakistan has been looking after more three million Afghan refugees for over a decade.

Radio Reports Embassy Staff Evacuated From Kabul

BK0709052695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0500 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan today evacuated all the 29 members of its embassy from Kabul. The embassy was attacked and destroyed by an unruly mob yesterday in which one staff member was killed and almost all others were beaten up and injured. Fourteen staff members received serious head injuries. A PAF [Pakistan Air Force] C-130 plane carrying the embassy staff arrived in Islamabad this morning. Five of the seriously injured diplomats, including Ambassador Humayun Qazi, and the military attache, Brigadier Ashraf Afridi, were taken on stretchers in almost unconscious conditions and shifted to the Combined Military Hospital in Rawalpindi. The dead body of sanitary worker Pyara Masih is being sent to his home town for burial.

Talking to newsmen at the PAF base, the foreign secretary, Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh, said according to initial reports, the crowd was taken to a place near the embassy in buses and trucks and was controlled by a central authority. He rejected the claim by the Kabul authorities that the demonstrators were first fired at from inside the embassy and said that Pakistani security guards at the embassy were unarmed. He regretted that despite early warnings and requests for protection of the staff and the embassy, only 10 persons were provided by the Kabul authorities, who were unable to control the mob. The foreign secretary took very serious exception to the remarks of the head of security, Mr. Yunus Qanuni, that he would not apologize over the incident. He said the relations between the two people remain unaffected by the acts of some misguided people. To a question about the future of Pakistan's relations with Kabul Government, the foreign secretary said there will be a discussion and analyses and then a decision taken.

Iranian Ambassador Views Kashmir, Afghan Peace

BK0109051595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Mehdi Akhondzadeh has said that Iran's position on Kashmir is based on principles. Talking to newsmen in Karachi yesterday, he said Iran cannot tolerate injustice and oppression against Muslims. He said that

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Iran is making its stand clearly known at all conferences that the people of Kashmir should be allowed to determined their own fate. Replying to a question on Afghanistan, the Iranian ambassador said Pakistan and Iran enjoy identical views relating to the establishment of peace in Afghanistan.

Iran Denies Detaining Physicians for Spying

LD3108164695 Tehran IRNA in English 1345 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Aug. 31, IRNA — A press communique issued by the Iranian consulate in Peshawar, Pakistan, Thursday [31 August] categorically denied a false report by a Peshawar daily claiming detention of more than 20 Pakistani physicians practicing in Iran.

The Urdu language 'MASHRIQ,' reported on Tuesday that over 20 practicing Pakistani physicians have been arrested by the security forces in Iran on charges of espionage for Islamabad government.

The communique described the report as fabricated, unfounded and spiteful.

Indian 'Conspiracy' To Get Hostages Killed Cited

BK0709132995 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to well-informed sources in Srinagar, India has hatched up another dreadful conspiracy to make the foreign hostages drama packed with horror and kill two birds with one stone. There are reliable reports that India has completed preparations for killing all those mojahedin whose release has been demanded by Al-Faran group. The pretext would be that they were trying to escape from prison. After implementation of this part of the conspiracy, the Indian intelligence would get the four foreign hostages killed through Al-Faran. India would give the world the impression that the foreign hostages have been killed to avenge the killing of those mojahedin trying to escape from the prison. Thus an attempt would be made to shift all the responsibility to the mojahedin. It is now well known that all the mojahedin organizations have categorically proclaimed that they have had nothing to do with Al-Faran and thus have completely dissociated themselves from Al-Faran.

Editorial Addresses Containing 'Indian Threat'

BK0409083995 Islamabad THE NATION in English 4 Sep 95 p 14

[Editorial: "Meeting External Threat"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Talking to newsmen in Lahore, Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali has referred to the Indian threat and said: "We have the capability to contain it." There has of late been a marked tendency among the high-ups in the government to warn against the possibility of aggression from across the border, beginning with the president's publicly-stated apprehension that India may be up to some misadventure against Pakistan. And Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told foreign correspondents a few days ago that India may try something foolish since the Indian ruling Congress party desperately needed to salvage its dwindling political authority. Needless to say, the threat perception is rooted in the history or Pak-India relations, and particularly in the wake of India's massive military build-up, Pakistan cannot afford to overlook the implications of a grossly one-sided military balance in the region. There are also no two opinions in Pakistan about New Delhi's imperial urge in South Asia, and its ruling elite's design to cut Pakistan down to size. Nonetheless, raising alarm about an "Indian attack" which seems to have been the message put across in official pronouncements, may not be the appropriate response to the challenge. While it is imperative to gear up the country's defence preparedness, and acquire from whichever quarters modern sophisticated military equipment is available, it would be rather counter-productive to do "more talking" than is called for to underscore New Delhi's mala fides vis-a-vis Pakistan.

The threat from India has always been there, and the people of Pakistan do not need to be told about it. On the contrary, overdoing it may raise suspicions of ulterior motives to use the "threat card" for point scoring against political opponents. Defending the frontiers of Pakistan is the job of the country's armed forces, and it should be ensured that they are in a state of readiness to meet any eventuality. However, their task can be facilitated by paying attention to improving the state of law and order and internal security in the country. If the Indians are harbouring aggressive designs against Pakistan, they may not necessarily opt for open and direct invasion, subversion by remote control would perhaps be more handy, given the licence the law- breakers seem to have in the country to resort to violence and incite armed conflicts of one or the other hue. Setting our own house in order should be the top priority for the government leaders, if they wish to launch a national endeavour for acting in unison against the threat from

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across the border. So long as there is a no-holds-barred contention for power the opposition leaders are being witch-hunted as criminals while dacoits and killers are at large and prophets of violence free to choose their targets, the country would hardly be prepared to face up to the challenge of external aggression, overt or through operations run by enemy agents.

Bhutto Launches Oil Refinery, Other Projects

BK3108153995 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said her government has assigned the highest priority to the development of energy resources for progress, prosperity, and socioeconomic development of the country. She was speaking at the commencement ceremony of the Pak-Arab Refinery, PARCO pipeline extension project, and the ground-breaking ceremony of its midcountry refinery project at Mahmud Kot in District Muzaffargarh this morning. These projects costing nearly $1 billion are being financed by PARCO — a joint venture of Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The refinery will be completed in 1999 with the capacity of refining 100,000 barrels daily. The 350-km extension pipeline is being laid from Mahmud Kot to Machhike via Faisalabad and will transport nearly 5,200,000 metric tons of oil annually for industrial and domestic consumers.

The prime minister said her government would bring equitable development in the country and translate the dreams of the father of the nation and late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto into reality for general prosperity of Pakistan. The prime minister said her government wants to develop all the areas of the country. The PARCO pipeline, she said, has played an important role in the economic development of the country. She said the 864-km-long underground pipeline will ensure the supply of petroleum and its byproducts to the upcountry. The prime minister said Pak-Arab Refinery is a model joint venture symbolizing the friendship between two brotherly countries — Pakistan and UAE. The prime minister announced on the occasion bonus equivalent to one month's salary for the workers of PARCO.

Earlier, the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, said these projects will be of vital importance for the country. The representative of International Petroleum Investment Company of UAE — Shaykh Mansur Bin Zayyid Al Nuhayyan — said the Government of UAE and APEC [Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries] are proud to be a part in the progress and prosperity of brotherly country, Pakistan.

Further on Bhutto Remarks

BK0109121895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 1 Sep 95 p 14

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mahmood Kot (APP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said her government would bring equitable development in the country and translate the dreams of the Father of the Nation and late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto into reality for general prosperity in Pakistan.

Addressing on the occasion of the ground-breaking ceremony of the Mid country oil refinery here the Prime Minister said with the cooperation of the people of Pakistan, the government would bring the remote, underdeveloped and ignored areas at par with the developed ones and offer equal opportunities to all. "We are working to build a society which was dreamed by Quaid-i-Azam [Mohammed Ali Jinnah] and it was the same society for which Quaid-i-Awam [Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto] struggled for," she added.

The Prime Minister said her government wants to develop all the areas of the country. We want to see every house and bazaar illuminating, mills running and tube-wells working. Under the same policy, she said, the government electrified three hundred fifty-two villages in Multan. "Work on the electrification of two hundred fifteen villages is in progress in Multan," she added.

The Prime Minister said that the PARCO [Pakistan-Arab Refinery] Refinery project is the part of the dream late Bhutto saw for the development and the progress of the country. "I am happy that today the people's government is translating the dream of first PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government", she maintained.

The PARCO pipelines, she said has played important role in the economic development of the country. She said 864-KM-long underground pipeline will ensure the supply of petroleum and its bye products to the upcountry. "The pipeline is silently working for the progress of the country by playing its role in running the industry, power generation and helping in the defence of the country," she added.

The Prime Minister expressed great gratitude to the ruler of UAE [United Arab Emirates] for his generous assistance in the development of Pakistan.

The people of Pakistan respect the gestures of friendship and generosity displayed by the brotherly Islamic country, she added. This project has become the symbol of lasting friendship between the two nations, she added.

The Prime Minister said, with the start of production in this refinery in 1999, country's capacity to refine oil

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will be greatly increased. "This will save one hundred million dollars of foreign exchange," she said.

Benazir Bhutto maintained that by road transportation of oil causes great congestion on the roads besides their wear and tear. "Through the induction of this oil refinery and extension of oil pipeline, the country will be able to have crude and by-products in the mid of the country," she said adding that the government wants to ensure the supply of oil to the upcountry.

The Prime Minister went on to say that the storage capacity of the country was not more than two weeks of oil consumption but with the induction of this pipeline, the counry's storage capacity will be doubled. In case of sea blockade by the enemy Pakistan would be able to continue its oil supply for the transport consumption and defence uses.

While welcoming the union president of PARCO, who came from Karachi to attend the ceremony, the Prime Minister said the workers and the people's government have a special relationship. In 1988 when all the provinces voted PPP to power, the government removed ban from the union activities. The government, she said believes that labour union activities are the right of the workers.

Benazir Bhutto said since then it has been government's policy to create healthy relationship between the workers and the management.

The PPP government restored all the labour unions whose services were terminated by martial law government.

The Prime Minister announced one month bonus for the workers of PARCO. She instructed the MD [managing director] PARCO to employee maximum workers in the refinery from the local population.

She also advised for the establishment of a technical school where the local labour should be imparted training to meet the future needs of the skilled labours.

Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Anwar Saifullah Khan, in his address of welcome, said the government has taken concrete steps for the development of the energy sector and to cater to the growing needs of the country. "This Mid-Country Refinery will provide additional refining capacity to the country which will greatly reduce the dependence on imports of deficit products," he added.

He was of the view that it will also accelerate the socio- economic development in the adjoining areas. Its location near Multan will facilitate the distribution of petroleum products to the distribution of petroleum products to the consumption centres located nearby and will also provide the much needed furnace oil for WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] power plants in the areas, he added.

He maintained that it is a matter of pleasure and pride that "we have amongst us the Prime Minister on this auspicious occasion of Commencement Ceremony of Mahmood Kot-Faisalabad-Machhike Pipeline Extension project and the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the PARCO Mid- Country Refinery Project," he said.

These two projects are of vital importance for the growth of industrial, commercial, agricultural, power generation and transport sectors in the central and northern parts of Pakistan, he added.

President Leghari To Visit Turkmenistan 6-8 Sep

BK3108153895 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari will be visiting Turkmenistan from 6th to the 8th of September. He will hold two rounds of talks in Ashgabat with President Saparmurad Niyazov on bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest. The two presidents will discuss situation in Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan. The visit is expected to give further impetus to already cordial relations between the two countries.

Zimbabwe Minister Arrives for Official Commission

BK0409103295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A delegation from Zimbabwe, led by the foreign minister, Mr. Stanislaus Mudenge, arrived in Islamabad this morning to attend the third meeting of Pakistan-Zimbabwe Joint Ministerial Commission opening in the federal capital later today.

Talking to newsmen on arrival, Dr. Stanislaus Mudenge, said his country is keen to strengthen and deepen its relations with Pakistan. He said he has come to Islamabad to explore ways and means to promote bilateral cooperation in trade, human resource development, agriculture and technical sectors. He noted with appreciation the cooperation extended by Pakistan to his country in organizing air force and railway network after independence.

Attends Joint Commission Meeting

BK0409142895 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The third session of the Pakistan-Zimbabwe Joint Ministerial Commission

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opened in Islamabad today to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the economic sector. Inaugurating the session, the adviser to the prime minister on finance, Mr. V.A. Jaffery, said a joint commission is a useful institutional framework for in-depth review of existing economic relations and identification of new opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields. Mr. Jaffery, while highlighting the economic policies, said the government has launched an elaborate program of fiscal reforms and economic restructuring to stabilize the economy and has made notable progress in this regard. The foreign minister of Zimbabwe, Mr. Mudenge, said that Zimbabwe has a strong desire and commitment to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

The foreign minister of Zimbabwe, Mr. Stanislaus Mudenge, met his Pakistani counterpart, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, in Islamabad today. They discussed enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields. The two foreign ministers also had an in-depth exchange of views in regard to the international situation and regional perceptions. The Pakistan foreign minister especially focused on the Kashmir issue and hoped that the Zimbabwe leadership would impress upon India to seek a peaceful solution of the issue based on the UN resolutions. The Zimbabwe foreign minister paid tribute to Pakistan's staunch support to Zimbabwe's struggle for independence and the continued contribution to Zimbabwe's efforts for national development. The Zimbabwean leadership recalls its helpful role with fondness and gratitude.

Report Concerned Over U.S. Ruling on Extradition

BK0609115295 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Sep 95 p 9

[Report by Ansar Abbasi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The Pakistan government is upset over the recent judgement of a US court which has prohibited the extradition of American citizens to other countries by striking down the American law.

The development which may affect the extradition cases currently under consideration of civil and judicial authorities in Pakistan, has worried the relevant agencies which are considering to take up the issue at the highest level for some policy decision.

The Foreign Office has already been asked to get the original copy of the said judgement from the US so that the real situation can be gauged.

According to a news report a US District Judge has struck down the country's extradition law last Thursday [7 September] and said that the 150- year old law was unconstitutional because it violated the separation of powers principle by allowing the secretary of state to review legal decisions by judges.

"Until the matter is sorted out, no US citizen can be extradited to another country and observers believe this could cause problems, specially with countries with which Washington has bilateral extradition treaties," the report added.

Official sources believe the issue is very serious and has posed a challenge to Pakistan. They say that the Pak-US relations at the level of extradition, will certainly be effected by this judgement and there is a possibility that some Pakistani court might also take notice of this situation.

Four petitions of Pakistani nationals sought by the US for extradition, are already pending before the Supreme Court [SC] for review of the government's decision to turn them over to US. The authorities believe that the counsel of these petitioners will definitely present this new development before the SC for some important decision.

They are of the view that the international laws are always based on reciprocity and the bilateral relations between the two countries on any specific issue can not remain intact if such an imbalance occur.

Keeping in view the extradition treaty between Pakistan and the US, the latter has so far been the main beneficiary of this law. Islamabad has so far handed over 11 Pakistanis to Washington for drug smuggling.

These were Nasrullah Khan Henjra, Haji Mirza Muhammad Iqbal Baig, Muhammad Anwar Khan Khattak, Tariq Butt, Zulqumain Khan, Misal Khan, Shahid Hafeez Khawja, Muhammad Saleem Malik, Mian Muhammad Azam, Khalid Khan and Taviz Khan. The last two have already come back after proven innocent in the US courts.

There are almost 18 more Pakistani nationals whose extradition is under process. The cases of Ghulam Muhalnmad, Umer Khan and Pervalz Iqbal Durrani are pending before the SC. One Salik Jan is under arrest and facing inquiry for extradition. While 13 others have still not been arrested by the authorities. They are Shakir Afridi, Muhammad Ashraf Rana, Khushnood Butt, Mahmud Ahmed, Haji Ayub Afridi, Khawaja Abdul Majeed, Haji Sher Bahadur, Zaman Khan, Haji Omar Bukhsh, Rauf Khan, Khan Muhammad Anjum Dawood Rahman and Hafeez ur Rehman. Nasir Ali Khan, also required for extradition, was arrested but later released by a court.

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